

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 11, 2013

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See Page 6



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Memory Lane – Page 26



Super Saddlers

Club marks milestone by keeping pressure on top

Sport – Pages 47 & 48



Bedroom tax unites council in a protest

COUNCILLORS in Walsall have called for the controversial 'bedroom tax' to be scrapped. They are to write to Government ministers about concerns the tax could destroy neighbourhoods.

A notice of motion demanding the authority express their "anger and dismay" at the reform, introduced this month, was agreed by councillors. It followed an hour-long debate over the bedroom tax at a meeting of the full council on Monday, where cross-party support was given to condemn its introduction.

Rival

Despite two rival amendments to the notice being voted down, the Labour-led statement of intent was supported. It saw the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in Walsall express their opposition towards the coalition government's move.

The motion by Labour leader Tim Oliver and councillors Ann Young and Eileen Russell stated: "The impact of the 'bedroom tax' will continue to fall disproportionately on less well-off residents and families across the borough of Walsall, who in many cases have no option but to face a further reduction in living standards."

Liberal Democrat boss Ian Shires, who put forward an amendment calling for more social housing, said: "We are all agreed the bedroom tax is a waste of time, it is the worst piece of legislation we have seen in a long time."

Grant boost for business

A METALS business in Willenhall has won £80,000 Regional Growth Fund cash to assist its expansion plans.

Quest 4 Alloys, Millstock Stainless and CK Centreless Grinding have moved under one roof at Fusion House, The Crescent, Willenhall.

Quest 4 Alloys, established in 1991, and the three businesses supply alloys, stainless steels and grinding and polishing services throughout the world.

THATCHER SILENCE MARKED BY SNUB

Report by Tom Mason



Baroness Thatcher

SEVERAL members of Walsall's Labour group sparked controversy by choosing not to attend a minute's silence for Margaret Thatcher at Monday's council meeting.

The full council held its scheduled meeting just hours after the announcement of the death of the former Conservative Prime Minister. The meeting began with a moment of quiet reflection in honour of 87-year-old Baroness Thatcher, who died in London following a stroke.

However, it was obvious to those in the public gallery that several members of Walsall's opposition Labour group were not present during the silence.

A member of the public, who does not wish to be named, claims the majority of Labour councillors were absent.

"We may not have agreed with Margaret Thatcher's policies but she deserves better than the contempt and ignorance these disreputable councillors showed," he told The Chronicle.

Conservative Councillor and Leader of Walsall Council, Mike Bird said that he had been pre-warned that a number of councillors from the Labour group would not attend the minute's silence.

He said: "It's not for me to say, they have got to make their own decisions. Whether you liked the women or not she is one of the best leaders this country has had."

Personal

Labour member for Darlaston South, Councillor Doug James said a Labour group meeting had been held prior to the council meeting where members were given the choice to attend the silence. He did attend.

"The individual labour members had a decision to make on a personal level," he said. "I came into politics because I was against what Thatcherism did to the country. But I think when someone passes on we should respect that."

Walsall's Labour group leader Councillor Tim Oliver said: "Councillors from all parties observed a moment's silence for the former Prime Minister. Some Labour members weren't present but neither were some Conservative members. It's important to remember that this moment of silence was suggested by a Labour mayor (Councillor Dennis Anson)."

Willenhall North Labour Councillor Gareth Illman-Walker said: "I respect my colleagues for the choices they made. Margaret Thatcher was an incredibly divisive politician."

The former Prime Minister will be given a funeral with full military honours at St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday.

Fans celebrate 125 years



Saddlers mascot Swifty celebrates outside the Banks's Stadium with young fans Luca Bailey, aged 5, and Italia Bailey, aged 6 from Norton Canes

A BUMPER crowd of Saddlers supporters marked the club's 125th anniversary as the sun shone on the Banks's Stadium at the weekend.

More than 7,000 fans descended on Bescot Crescent, where young fans were treated to a range of sport-themed games and competitions before Saturday's crunch game against promotion rivals Sheffield United.

Long queues for tickets extended the length of the car park as a sea of red shirts

surrounded the ground. Inside the stadium two flags designed by pupils at Shelfield Community Academy were flown on top of the family stand to mark the anniversary. It was the first time the masts had been raised since the club's promotion from League Two in 2007.

Dear Smith's men continued their fine form, holding the high-flying Blades to a 1-1 draw to keep the play-off aspirations alive.

■ Saddlers celebrate – See page 2

Warning over tree workers con trick

BOGUS workmen claiming to be from the council have been asking for hundreds of pounds to carry out tree work in Walsall.

There have been at least three reported occasions recently where homes in Aldridge and Bloxwich, have been visited by the suspected conmen.

They have been asking for £200 to rectify a problem with a tree, claiming it should cost more than three times as much.

It comes after it emerged bogus callers pretending to be water officials had carried out a spate of burglaries in Rushall earlier this year. In these cases they managed to talk themselves into properties before stealing items.

Elderly

Walsall Council is now urging the elderly and vulnerable to be wary of handing over cash after the attempts to scam residents.

Council leader Mike Bird said: "What we're finding is that people get a knock on the door from someone claiming to be from the council telling them there is a problem with a tree on their property. They claim this should cost £700 but will do it for £200 cash."

"This is a scam. They're not from the council and there is probably nothing wrong with the tree."

"We're asking people to report it to us via 01922 650000 or Citizens Advice Consumer Service on a local rate 08454040506 or West Midlands Police on 101."

Pupils to sing at cathedral

PUPILS in Pelsall are set to make history by becoming the first primary school to sing the whole choral evensong at Lichfield Cathedral.

Professional choristers normally perform but, if they are away, it is the job of visiting choirs to sing the daily services. These normally consist of adults or secondary school choirs but, on April 17, St Michael's Church of England Primary School will be singing.

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'Chopper' dies at the age of 82



Saddlers' Bill Guttridge

FORMER Saddlers captain Bill 'Chopper' Guttridge has died aged 82.

The father-of-two died on Saturday at Walsall Manor Hospital, as the Banks's Stadium club marked its 125th anniversary. He had been suffering ill health for several years. The grandfather-of-four had Parkinson's Disease and had bouts of pneumonia.

Mr Guttridge captained Walsall to successive promotions after joining from Wolves in 1954.

He leaves daughters Christine, 58, who lives in Bloxwich, and Karen, 47, from Great Wyrley.

Mr Guttridge was widowed in 2008 when Margaret, his wife of 53 years, died of a heart attack at the age of 75.

Grandson Elliot, aged nine, and

Lucas, who is eight, play football for the academies at Wolves and Walsall respectively.

Bill was about to move to Swan House residential home in Short Heath before he passed away on his great-grandson Alfie Meath's first birthday.

Inspiration

Daughter Karen Tibbs paid tribute to her father. She said: "I remember him as a high-spirited, determined man. He always pushed all the family to enjoy life and we all have, to the full. "He was a massive inspiration and he is a massive loss"

Darlaston-born Mr Guttridge, who played as a left-back, worked and played for Metroshaft Works before joining Wolves as an amateur in 1947.

Turning professional in 1948, he spent six years at Molineux, making seven first-team appearances. He moved to Walsall in 1954 and became a fans' favourite, captaining the team to successive promotions as the Saddlers climbed from Division Four to Division Two between 1959 and 1961.

After making 210 appearances for Saddlers, a cartilage injury forced retirement at the age of 31 in 1962 but he remained in football, coaching youngsters at Fellows Park before managing Darlaston and Macclesfield.

Following his retirement from football, Bill worked for Service Work Appliances in Darlaston for 30 years as a shop steward in the washing machine paint spraying department.

Saddlers celebrate 125-year milestone

SADDLERS' fans young and old celebrated 125 years of Walsall FC in style at the weekend as the team kept this season's promotion hopes alive in a 1-1 draw with Sheffield United.

A bumper crowd of 7,000 fans headed for the Banks's Stadium as past favourites including legendary defender Stan Bennett returned to see Dean Smith's side hold the high-flying Blades.

Colin Forrester, aged 65, of Bewdley, was at the game with a hand-knitted scarf to which he has added the names of Walsall players with more than 200 appearances, including record-breaking goalkeeper Jimmy Walker.

Long queues for tickets extended the length of the car park as a sea of red shirts surrounded the ground. Inside the stadium two flags designed by pupils at Sheffield Community Academy were flown on top of the family stand to mark the anniversary.

On the pitch, Dean Smith's men continued their fine form, holding their rivals to keep the club's play-off aspirations alive.

Crowd

As part of the birthday celebrations, former players John Leedham, Keith Ball, Stan Bennett, Jimmy McMorran, Ray Wiggin, Joe Boyden, Mick Evans, Ken Hodgkinson, Alec Jackson, Alan Roper, Colin Harrison and Stuart Ryder were given a warm reception as they took to the turf and were introduced to the crowd.

Walsall Supporters Trust chairman Neil Ravenscroft, aged 61, has been a fan for 50 years. He highlighted the 1983 Milk Cup giant-killing of Arsenal as one of the most memorable games.

He said: "There is something about this club. It is small, and you get to meet some brilliant people and it is full of surprises. Nobody expected this season to be like it has turned out to be." Jayne Barratt, 46, has been a fan all her life and is from a family of season ticket holders. She said: "I think the fans really make what the club is. You get to know everybody here, and it is such a friendly family atmosphere."

Life-long fan Carl Harris, 34, brought his two boys Bradley, eight, and Jack, seven, to the match. He said: "This is really the first season I have brought my sons to the football properly. They absolutely love it."



Sarah and Colin Forrester's giant scarf

Perri Bailey, 25, of Norton Canes, went to the game with his children Italia, six, and Luca, five. The fan of 11 years said: "My best moment as a Walsall fan has to be when we beat the Albion 4-1 on the opening day of the season in 2003."

Rob Stokes, 26, of Beechdale, has been attending games since he was nine and has had a season ticket for the past four seasons.

He said: "Last season was up and down, and you get used to that as a Walsall fan. But the way we are playing at the moment we have to be confident we can challenge for promotion."



The flag designers from Sheffield Academy



Former Walsall players presented to the fans

Simon Priest, 41, of Rowley Regis, has been attending games since 1999 and reckons supporting a smaller club is more satisfying as a fan.

He said: "I just think you have more of a relationship with a club like Walsall than what you do with Premier League teams."

Next season will bring a programme of further events to mark the 125th anniversary. They will include a commemorative kit, while the club hopes to arrange an anniversary match with Aston Villa - opponents in the Saddlers' first competitive match in 1888.

Snow and cold hits revamp at memorial

WORK to revamp one of the borough's most famous landmarks has suffered more than a month of delays due to bad weather.

Theft-proof metal and security cameras have been installed at the historic Barr Beacon War Memorial in Walsall in a bid to stop vandals targeting the landmark.

But around a fortnight's worth of work remains to be done with contractors are hoping to go back on site this week.

Site manager Ron Graham said there had been five weeks of setbacks since Christmas, with temperatures of -8C and snow drifts near the site making it impossible to work.

Handrails and bannisters still need to be installed, work needs to be finished on the underside of the domed roof and the flagpole needs to be erected.

Improvements are part of a £440,000 project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Work is being done by Aldridge-based Midland Conservation Ltd.

Zinc has been installed at its domed roof. Thieves caused damage put at thousands of pounds when they struck twice in 2011, ripping copper off the monument.

The Barr Beacon Trust also agreed to fund a CCTV camera system with help from the SmartWater security firm.

New scheme creates jobs

PLANS for a manufacturing development on a former industrial site in Moxley have been given the go-ahead.

The scheme for the former Ductile Wesson site includes an industrial building, warehousing, offices and parking, creating around 270 jobs.

Planning bosses at Walsall Council approved the proposal, saying the project would help to regenerate Moxley.

Councillor Paul Bott, representing Darlaston South, said: "This will support jobs in the area."

"It will also take away the problem of fly-tipping at the site."

Councillor Bott added that he wanted to meet with highway officials at the council to discuss road safety near to the site.

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Noddy is asked to dance on top show



Strictly - Noddy Holder

SLADE legend Noddy Holder has been asked to appear on this year's Strictly Come Dancing.

The Walsall-born rocker said he had been approached to star in most TV reality shows but Strictly was his favourite. The 66-year-old star said: "I get asked to do all the reality shows but I'm in my late 60s now. I can't be going to the North Pole and the jungle."

"I have been asked to do Strictly and I like the show - I've been down to watch it being filmed with my missus, who is a huge fan and keeps badgering me to do it. But it's a lot of work."

The Cum on Feel the Noise singer insists the only reason he will agree is if he feels he has a decent chance of winning the BBC show.

Man charged over attack

A MAN has appeared in court charged with attacking a pensioner with a hammer before stealing his car.

Philip Humpage, of Harden Road, Walsall, faces one count of wounding and a further charge of aggravated burglary after 65-year-old Philip Martin was injured in Rushall on Easter Sunday.

The defendant, who appeared before Wolverhampton magistrates on Saturday, also faces a charge of blackmail after being arrested in Sheffield.

It follows the attack in Harpur Road in which the pensioner suffered serious cuts to his head. He was taken to hospital but has since been discharged.

The stolen Volkswagen Polo was later recovered nearby.

Humpage was remanded in custody and will appear before Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 1.

More than 440 investigations into fly-tipping

HUNDREDS of fly-tipping investigations were launched by council chiefs in just 12 months as part of a crackdown on rubbish dumping in Walsall borough.

Three people were prosecuted and two fixed penalties issued in the drive to clear dropped waste causing an eyesore across Walsall.

The 442 investigations were conducted between last April and March this year, a report to the council has revealed.

Fly-tipping is estimated to cost the authority almost £250,000 a year to clean up and in previous years more than 2,000 complaints have been recorded within 12 months.

Prosecute

Hotspot areas around Bloxwich and Moxley are now being targeted by the authority which has hidden cameras to record those responsible.

Walsall environmental boss Councillor

Tom Ansell, said: "We are determined to crackdown on fly-tippers. We have got covert cameras that can be used. Where we can get enough evidence I am keen to take people to court and prosecute more people for doing fly-tipping."

In a report to the council, David Elington, area manager for environmental health said: "Enforcement officers conducted 442 fly-tipping investigations which could include follow-up visits, retrieval of evi-

dence, witness and offender interviews and camera surveillance. This resulted in three prosecutions and the issue of two fixed penalty notices."

Regular hotspots have included Goscote Lodge Crescent, Shakespeare Crescent in Harden and Chaucer Road in Bloxwich.

The council purchased six cameras as part of its war against fly-tipping.

Those prosecuted in Walsall have faced court bills of between £800 and £1,200.

Banquet bid at club is rejected over parking

PLANS to transform a former working men's club into an expanded social club for up to 500 guests in Walsall have been rejected, amid concerns over parking facilities.

by Craig Hughes

A scheme to revamp the empty Pleck Working Men's Club, which closed two years ago, went to council planners in a scheme that it was hoped would create 14 jobs.

It was rejected over fears that it would affect people living near the Pleck Road site.

Ward councillor Dennis Anson said that there were already parking problems and a more suitable community use was needed.

Hundreds

There would have been alterations to the building, including its height, for a new function, banqueting and social club with changed layout.

The proposal was rejected by the council under delegated powers.

Councillor Anson said: "We have had a lot of problems with parking and there could be hundreds of people turning up. So I don't think we could use it for that because of the parking."

"I would like to see it come back into use as a community space."

Head of planning David Elsworth said: "The proposals by reason of late

evening activity, additional comings and goings, congregation outside the buildings, and noise from entertainment would create noise and disturbance and would have an adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring and nearby residents.

"The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the development will provide adequate on-site parking, with the parking spaces shown being incapable of allowing "satisfactory turning space."

The application, submitted on behalf of applicant Bobby Verma, had said: "The social club would be beneficial to the ethnic community in the local area as well as the rest of the neighbourhood as it will bring variety of choice on the Pleck Road and revive the area, instead of leaving the site empty."

It would have been near to Walsall Manor Hospital which was given a £170 million transformation in 2010. There are plans to create an improved intensive care unit and A&E department at the hospital.

Electric blanket on fire

A PENSIONER had a lucky escape when the faulty electric blanket he was sleeping under caught fire.

Fire crews were called to the man's home in Wolverson Road, Walsall Wood, at 2.30am on Saturday.

The blaze had spread through the bed and to the floorboards beneath, but was confined to the bedroom.

The man, in his 90s, suffered smoke inhalation and minor burns to his hands and was taken to Manor Hospital as a precaution.



Stephen Sankey is pictured at his chicken sanctuary at Well Lane in Blakenall

Chicken sanctuary falls foul of council

THE owner of a sanctuary which rehuses chickens and shelters other animals has been forced to downsize after being told he was breaching planning regulations.

Stephen Sankey has been rehusing ex-battery chickens at his semi-detached home in Blakenall for the past eight years - up to 250 a month.

But the father of five has had to reduce the amount of chickens he takes in to 50 after planners said there had been an unauthorised change of use of the land, due to the large scale of chicken-keeping.

Neighbours

Council officers intervened after neighbours raised concerns.

Mr Sankey, who runs the sanctuary from his garden with son Jason, said he now had to turn away regular requests to rescue birds and other animals because there was no longer room.

The 59-year-old, of Well Lane, was visited by planning and environmental health officers on Friday and has been handed a planning contravention notice.

Neighbour Louise Jessop and her husband Robert, live next door to Mr Sankey with their five children. She said: "The smell is the worst thing."

"We can't have any windows open in our house because of the stench and because we get inundated with flies."

NEWS in brief

Grants available for youth action

ORGANISATIONS that can deliver positive activities for young people in Walsall are being invited to apply for grants of up to £2,500.

Grant applications can be made to Integrated Young People's Support Services at Walsall Council. Expressions of interest should be made to IYPSS@walsall.gov.uk by April 18 and the closing date for completed application forms is April 29.

A shortlist of applicants will be revealed on May 10.

Morris dancers and classic cars

MORRIS dancers and a maypole will be among attractions at Rushall May Fair. It will be held at Rushall Playing Fields, in Rowley Place, on May 6.

A May queen and princess will be crowned and there will be charity stalls and fair rides.

A classic car show will also be held. Entry to the fair and car show is free. Stall pitches can be booked on 01922 442956. To enter a classic car call 07828 800427.

Invitation to join clean-up project

VOLUNTEERS are being sought for a clean-up operation in Caldmore on April 27.

People are asked to meet at Walsall Independent Evangelical Church in Bath Street. It will take place between 10.30am and 1pm.

A free lunch and equipment will be provided for all participants.

Call 01922 612223 for more information.

Blood donor call at village session

THE NHS is appealing for volunteers to attend the a blood donor session to help meet the demand from local hospitals.

The session will be held on Friday, April 19, at the Community Centre in Station Road, Pelsall, from 2 to 4pm and 5 to 7.30pm. Call 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment.

Rushall meeting to help development

RUSHALL development group's next meeting in on Wednesday, April 17, from 7pm at Rushall Community Centre.

The group is looking for enthusiastic new recruits members to help the village develop whilst preserve its heritage and helping young people.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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RHODES

I WENT into town, ears blue with cold, to buy a winter hat, one of those woolly items, much favoured by Al Pacino and New York street thugs. The woolly hat is probably the only knitted garment ever to inspire fear. Sadly, I had reckoned without the seasonal shelf-stocking policy of clothes shops. For commercial purposes, winter is officially over. There is not a winter hat to be seen but the shelves are full of straw hats for something called summer.

□□□□□□□□

COME to think of it, I recall another knitted garment that inspired fear. It was my first swimming costume, made by my mother when I was five. Things tended to fall out.

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THE Government admits it has spent £18 million on confidentiality agreements to buy the silence of nearly 5,000 departing employees. These gagging orders can cost up to £400,000. In the bad old days the Mafia achieved much the same result with a bullet in the head and a dead canary stuffed in the victim's mouth to indicate he had been "singing." This solution was not only effective but cheap. And also cheap.

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I WONDER how many millions of us watched the "emotional" press conference of Mick and Mairead Philpott and suspected, right from the start, that they were guilty of killing their six children in a house fire. I remember watching it on television last May and asking, as many others must have asked: "Where are the tears?" Philpott did a lot of hankie-wringing and face-dabbing but failed to produce a single teardrop. He wanted to be the celebrity and the hero. Instead, his performance for the cameras marked him down as the chief suspect.

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CONTRAST Philpott's dry cheeks with those of his heroic neighbours, Jamie and Darren Butler who tried to rescue the kids but were beaten back by smoke and heat. Both men looked as hard as nails but as Darren recalled the night, tears poured down his face. If justice is done fully in this case, there will be medals.

□□□□□□□□

MANY local Derbyshire folk turned up hoping to be extras in The Village (BBC1) but few were chosen. Most were rejected because of dyed hair, tattoos and other 21st century giveaways which would have looked bizarre in a 1914 drama. The rejects may be miffed but we should be profoundly thankful that it is so difficult for us to recreate the look of ordinary working folk nearly 100 years ago. Great-grandfather's generation grew up with rickets, TB, polio and cholera and a diet of 1,000 calories a day if they were lucky. Kids could be whacked by parents, teachers and any passing stranger and if you were sacked, you went hungry. In old photos, that doomed generation looks poor, pinched, spindly and deferential. If they could have looked into the future and seen us they would have been astonished at our size, our education, our good health and the curious fact that we don't doff our caps to anyone. From starvation to swagger in three generations. What an amazing century it has been.

□□□□□□□□

MANCHESTER police are to extend the definition of "hate crimes" to cover attacks on Goths, emos and other sub-cultures. Let me know of any other groups who you think deserve special protection. Old blokes in libraries noisily sucking mints spring to mind.

□□□□□□□□

MEANWHILE, back at the clothes shop I note that underpants are now being marketed as "keyhole trunks." Vale or Chubb, sir?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Nesting birds delay visitor centre

THE final phase of the multi-million pound revamp of Walsall Arboretum has been delayed by six months because of nesting birds – pushing completion back to autumn 2014.

The showpiece visitor centre is the fifth and final piece in the £7.6 million park revamp. Work had been expected to start at Easter but has now been delayed until autumn.

Council chiefs said they did not want to disturb wildlife and had to

carry out work to stabilise an embankment to make the area safe first. Trees would have to be removed from the embankment but this could not be done when birds were nesting.

Originally

Leisure boss Anthony Harris said: "We are looking forward to work starting in September once the embankment stabilisation has been

carried out. But the end result will definitely be worth all the blood, sweat and tears."

It means the visitor centre will now be completed by autumn 2014. It had originally been due to open later this year and become fully operational in 2014.

The centre will include a cafeteria, meeting room, classroom, offices and toilet facilities and will be created on the Centre Green. It will

be the final part of a huge park transformation programme, which began in 2010.

Councillor Harris added: "All of us associated with this project can't wait to see the fully restored park, which will be a real asset to Walsall."

A report to Walsall councillors earlier this year said work on the visitor centre would start in Easter, which was already a delay of several months.

Campaign is helping dementia sufferers

SHOPKEEPERS and business bosses are being encouraged to join a government scheme that will transform the borough into a "dementia-friendly" community.

Funded by Walsall Council and the borough's clinical commissioning group, it aims to raise awareness of dementia, which affects around 3,000 people in Walsall.

Accord Group's Pathways 4 Life team and the Alzheimer's Society will help deliver the initiative by providing businesses with advice and skills to help spot those with the problem.

Nicole Beeching, health and well-being manager at the Accord Group, said: "Sometimes just the simplest changes, such as how staff communicate, can vastly improve a person with dementia's day-to-day life."

"It's these simple techniques that we'll be speaking to businesses about to ensure that people with dementia in Walsall get the support and help that they need every day, whether they're doing a weekly shop or collecting their pension."

Call Sue Summerfield on 01922 602484 or email sue.summerfield@walsall.nhs.uk

Church hopes to make move

A STORAGE building in Walsall could be transformed to provide a church with a new home.

The building at Field Gate Works, New Street, is within a two-minute walk of the Redemption Faith Assemblies UK church's previous place of worship at St Matthew's Centre.

The church, which has up to 40 members, wants to rent the new venue.

The application said the location would be ideal because the members are from Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham most travel by public transport.

Dodgeball is a growing success

MORE people are signing up to try dodgeball, says the coach of a new Walsall team.

Glyn Marston, who set up Walsall Warriors dodgeball team, held sessions in March and was overwhelmed with the response at Bloxwich Leisure Centre. He said there could be enough interest to start a league.

New intensive care unit to open in 2015

A NEW multi-million pound intensive care unit at Walsall Manor Hospital is expected to open in 2015. Work on the 16-bed unit, costing £6 million, is due to get under way in spring next year and take around 12 months to complete.

by Craig Hughes

The modern purpose-built facility at the hospital will be created at the entrance to the Inpatient Centre, formerly the West Wing of the hospital.

It will combine the services operated at the current high dependency and critical care units, which have six beds each.

The scheme has been under discussion by the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and it was initially hoped work may begin this year, once the scheme had been finalised.

Critical

However, it is now expected to be 2014 before work can begin with completion set for spring 2015.

Jayne Tunstall, chief operating officer at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "This is an exciting time for the Trust, continuing our redevelopment which began with the opening of the new hospital building in 2010."

She added: "The new Intensive Cardiac Care Unit will provide the best possible service to our patients,

joining our current Intensive Therapy Unit and High Dependency Unit, bringing two areas of critical care together in one place."

It comes as health bosses are developing long-term plans to redevelop the Accident and Emergency department at the Pleck Road site.

The hospital has been hit by rising numbers of emergency admissions which have been stretching resources at the Manor since the winter.

Latest figures showed there were 23,121 emergency admissions between last April and February of this year, compared with 20,200 over the same period during 2011/12.

The figures were also above the planned 20,379 patients that the Manor had anticipated during 2012/13.

The hospital is now braced for more pressures in its A&E department because of the proposed downgrade of Stafford and Cannock Hospitals.

Authors visit libraries

AUTHORS are lined up to visit libraries across Walsall borough during the spring.

Romance novelist Carole Matthews will visit Darlaston Library, in King Street, on Tuesday, April 23, from 2.25pm to 3.30pm.

Former journalist Jane Sanderson will be at Pheasey Library on April 26 from 11am to 12.30pm. For her books, Netherwood and Ravenscliffe, she used her own family history as background. Then on May 14, Christina Jones, who is renowned for penning a series of romantic comedies, will visit Aldridge Library from 2.15pm to 3.15pm.

Flying start for beauty business



Beauty queen Jessica Watts with dresses at the store she runs with her mother

A BEAUTY queen from Bloxwich has launched her own salon in Staffordshire.

Jessica Watts, the reigning Miss Teen Galaxy Wales, has funded the beauty salon herself and runs it from a shop where her mother sells gowns.

The 17-year-old has now officially opened her store, Dragonflies Beauty, on Park Road, Cannock.

It runs alongside her mother Carol's business Dragonfly Frocks.

Miss Watts, of Turnberry Estate, said her business had a great opening day.

"I've always been interested in beauty," she said. "It's all about helping people, making people feel better about themselves."

"It was busy on the opening day, so hopefully it will stay that way. I saved up to get all the products myself."

Miss Watts trained at Peter Pyne Training School in Walsall before working at Mirage beauty salon in Gilety Avenue, Walsall.

"It was lovely that so many of her pageant friends came along to support her at the opening," added mum Carol.

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Hard line on bins delivers success

A CONTROVERSIAL clampdown on "contaminated" recyclable rubbish in Walsall has been a success, the town's environment boss insists.

A zero-tolerance approach was launched by Walsall Council in November, which saw bins left unemptied if they contained items that could not be recycled.

Figures showed almost 50,000 bins went uncollected up to the start of March but the authority insists this is just a tiny percentage of bins.

Shop

Environment boss councillor Tom Ansell said: "We have run an effective campaign to reduce the amount of contamination in our recycling collections, reducing contamination from more than 17 per cent in autumn 2012 to between seven per cent and eight per cent in January 2013."

"This has helped our efforts to recycle as much household waste as possible whilst maintaining an income from the collection."

Recent figures show from November 19 to March 3 a total of 47,977 bins were left untouched.

A pop-up shop offering information about what people can and cannot recycle will be open in Walsall town centre's Saddlers Centre today (Thursday) and Friday until 3pm as part of the campaign.

Driving ban for a learner

A LEARNER driver from West Bromwich who hit speeds up to 70mph during a police pursuit from Walsall to Bilston, before ploughing his car into an electricity sub-station, has been given a suspended jail sentence.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told Jamie Edwards, 24, at Wolverhampton Crown Court that he was a "danger to the public" when behind the wheel. But, despite previous convictions, reports stated Edwards, of Schofield Avenue, "had turned the corner".

Edwards admitted driving dangerously, having no licence or insurance. He was given a 12-month jail term suspended for 18 months, banned from driving for two years, put on 12 months supervision and given a three-month weekend curfew.

Woman claimed £37k benefits when working

A BENEFITS cheat from Willenhall fraudulently pocketed more than £37,000 while working as a cook, a court heard.

Mary Spittle falsely claimed incapacity benefit, housing and council tax benefit for more than four years by failing to declare she worked, Walsall magistrates heard.

Mr Nick Baker, prosecuting on behalf of Walsall Council and the Department for Work and Pensions, said the 55-year-old started claiming benefits in 2005 on the basis she was unable to work and had no savings.

In June 2007, she started work as a cook for United Care Ltd but kept receiving benefits. Her employer showed that she was paid monthly and received £6.50 an hour.

Mr Baker said: "Any change in circumstances must be reported to the relevant department. None were reported

and benefits continued to be paid." He said there was a "significant" overpayment in benefits of £37,606.83.

Spittle, of Pinson Road, was interviewed by officers from the Department for Work and Pensions and Walsall Council in March last year. The court was told that Spittle had claimed to be aware of the rules surrounding benefits and the information it was necessary to declare.

Forms

Mr Baker said that she claimed she had filled forms in without reading them properly and thought she had been receiving tax credits rather than incapacity benefit.

Spittle admitted failing to notify the council about a change in circumstances which would affect her housing

and council tax benefits between August 2007 and March 2012. She admitted failing to notify the Department for Work and Pensions that she had been working whilst claiming incapacity benefit between June 2007 and February 2012. The court heard that she had no previous convictions and the claim had not been fraudulent from the outset.

Representing Spittle at Friday's hearing, Mrs Sarb Sehmi said she her client accepted she should have told the relevant authorities that she had started working.

Magistrates deemed the case was too serious to pass sentence due to the large amount of money and the length of time that Spittle had been claiming. They committed the case to Wolverhampton Crown Court on May 7. She was released on unconditional bail.

Cat killings will not frighten away Judi

A GRANDMOTHER has told how she was left devastated after her cats were killed during a series of break-ins at horse paddocks in Aldridge.

The 12-year-old pets belonging to Judi Puffett were found dead during a spate of burglaries which saw up to seven stables and sites targeted within a matter of weeks.

Police are investigating a number of break-ins at the stables off Back Lane, near Hobs

Call for market day bus service

THE frequency of a bus service linking Darlaston with Bilston has been increased after it proved popular with customers. But calls were made to run the service 30 bus on Thursdays to tie in with market days.

Campaigners claim many who live in Moxley would like to travel to Bilston Market on Thursdays but struggle because the bus does not run on that day.

The new 30 service bus was introduced in September last year following demands for a bus after the 339 was dropped. It will now switch from an hourly to a half-hourly service, although Willenhall is no longer included in the route because of low levels of use.

Councillor Paul Bott, independent representative for Darlaston South, said lots of Moxley folk wanted to go to Bilston Market.

The service is run by Centro and Walsall Community transport. Bosses said they regularly reviewed bus services to meet demand.

Yob menace bikes seized

A TOTAL of 14 off-road bikes have been seized in an area of Walsall over the last 12 months as part of a crackdown on louts.

The Blakenall neighbourhood team has been dealing with problems caused by off-road bikers, youths setting fires and drug use near The Lea in Goscote Lane.

Officers have warned those who persistently cause problems will be issued with

Hall Lane, Aldridge, between March 9 and 26 when generators, tools and horse equipment were taken.

Police want to speak to four men, who have been seen in the area walking a white Lurcher dog.

Officers say in each break-in cats were "savagely set upon by a dog."

Grandmother-of-12 Mrs Puffett said: "I am devastated. How would they like it if we went into their homes and started to kill their pets and take their belongings?"

Injured

The 52-year-old from Sutton Coldfield, who has recovered from three mini-strokes, insists she will not be driven away by those responsible.

"I like to spend time with my animals," she said. "We thought about giving it up but we won't let them win."

Mrs Puffett's 18-month-old pony Polly Pocket suffered a leg injury.

"The dog must have chased her around," said Mrs Puffett.

"We are lucky she didn't have to be put down."

Her caravan on the site was ransacked and a secure unit was stripped of tools.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Judi Puffett at her Aldridge small holding with her horse Polly Pocket which was attacked by a gang who also killed her cats during a burglary

NEWS

in brief

Plan for centre on Beacon is revived

A BUSINESS plan to transform the Barr Beacon Lodge into a visitor centre is expected to be drawn up soon.

The Barr Beacon Trust and Walsall Council are looking again at plans at the beauty spot which may include a cafe and meeting room.

A larger £2.3 million project was put forward for the Beacon Road site as part of the Black Country Urban Park bid in 2007.

But it missed out on winning the cash and the council was forced to shelve the scheme.

Walkie-talkies in crime campaign

A RADIO scheme launched by traders in Pelsall to crack down on crime has been backed by a senior councillor.

More than 50 businesses in Pelsall have been given walkie-talkies to speak to each other over suspicious activity. It has been backed by police in helping to reduce shoplifting and anti-social behaviour.

Council community engagement boss Councillor Ian Shires says it is "cost effective" approach.

Offenders may be on anti-litter duty

THE use of youth offenders or community payback to promote the anti-litter message is being considered in Walsall.

The feasibility is being looked at by Walsall Council as part of a blitz on rubbish. Under the proposals youth offenders may be required to help promote the campaign.

Litterbugs can be issued with £80 fixed penalty notices or up to £2,500 in fines if taken to court.

Course to boost job finding skills

A FREE training course encouraging women into work is due at a community centre in Darlaston. It runs on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Olio Hub, in Midland Road, 10am to 2pm for women aged 18 and over and provides help with CV and interview skills. Call 07963 196069.

Museum focus to be on folk customs

A TALK about folklore customs will take place at Walsall Museum on Tuesday, April 16, between 2pm and 3pm. For tickets, call 01922 653116 or email museum@walsall.gov.uk



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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

GLASS half full or half empty? Last month was the second coldest March on record. And the good news? Well imagine how much worse it would be without global warming.

□□□□□

IF IAIN Duncan Smith has any sense, he will tactfully ignore the petition challenging him to prove he can live on £53 a week.

Many will remember how a rather silly young Tory MP called Matthew Parris tried a similar stunt, against the orders of the then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, back in 1984.

For an episode of Granada television's World In Action programme, Parris spent a week living on £26.80, at the time the basic rate of unemployment benefit. It all started so well. Each meal was carefully planned, his black-and-white television was budgeted for, and by Friday he was looking rather pleased with himself.

Then come Saturday, for some inexplicable reason, he blew all his savings on a football match. And he wasn't even interested in football. It never occurred to him that watching top-flight football was a luxury many working people struggle to afford, let alone people living on benefits.

His brush with the terraces meant spending Sunday night in darkness because he didn't have the money for the electricity meter. Parris did indeed prove that it was possible for him to live on unemployment benefit for a single week, but he also ended up looking a bit of a prat.

Work and Pensions Secretary Mr Duncan Smith is wise to avoid such cheap tricks.

□□□□□

IF Britain is a country truly committed to free speech, how come we still get phone bills?

□□□□□

HAVE you clocked the barnet on the new 'young police and crime commissioner' Paris Brown? The 17-year-old has got a bigger mane than Lenny the Lion. But jesting aside, let's not go overboard about a few foul-mouthed rants she posted on Twitter when she was 14.

That old shrinking violet Keith Vaz MP has waded into the debate, saying he is "deeply shocked by the disclosures". What, a man of the world like Mr Vaz, shocked that a teenage girl behaves like an arm, adolescent?

The real question is about the wisdom of her boss, Kent police and crime commissioner Anne Barnes, spending £15,000 of public money employing a teenager to advise her about policing matters. Maybe Mrs Barnes thought it would make her seem modern and innovative, or perhaps she just fancied a go at playing Alan Sugar and spotting tomorrow's talent.

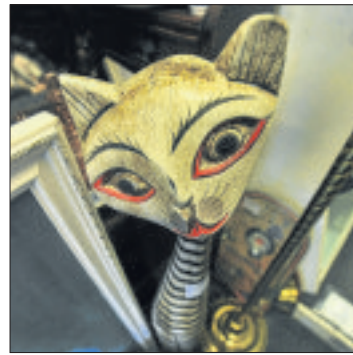
As for the BBC man who reduced Paris to tears with his relentless grilling: it's not big and it's not clever.



A pixie is among the finds in the shop



Spencer Evans with a cleaner made by Everbods Vacuum Cleaner Co



A curious cat peeks out from the one corner

Weird and wonderful world of old Curio Shop

Vintage chic has given a new lease of life to a unique Walsall business selling bric-a-brac from yesteryear.

LISA O'BRIEN takes a look inside The Curio Shop

A 100-YEAR-OLD vacuum cleaner, Roman brooches and a solid brass gun sight are some of the weird and wonderful finds at a Walsall antiques treasure trove celebrating its 44th anniversary in the town.

The Curio Shop, in George Street, attracts interest from all over the world and has even caught the eye of famous musicians.

Packed from floor to ceiling with thousands of historical gems, each week it is visited by scores of antique hunters and curious shoppers looking for something unusual to fill a space in their homes.

The store is increasingly attracting a younger audience with an eye for vintage, chic items.

Antiques

From old fashioned phones and furniture to trinkets and money boxes, owner Spencer Evans has trawled through homes, searched market stalls and bought treasures from his own customers.

He came across the gun sight just last week and believes it is from an English firearm, but he is hoping to find out more as he researches his latest additions.

"I was born with an interest in antiques and all things odd," the father-of-two said.

"I've always had a fascination for old things, social history and the way we used to live. Life has changed so much."

"I look for quirky things and those which will make an impact."

The only item not up for sale in the



"I look for quirky things" - at The Curio Shop with owner Spencer Evans

shop is a long, thin 1913 American Hoover, which works by pumping the handle up and down by hand and was found in an outhouse in Walsall.

Mr Evans, aged 44, of Highgate, Walsall, said: "It's a novelty item. I've had it in my collection for the last 25

sailor hat from the Baltic Fleet from someone on a market.

"There are Roman brooches in the shop which are 2,000 years old. Some people found them with metal detectors in the West Midlands. They are only tiny but would have been worn on tunics."

"I've met all kinds of people with lots of different tastes. If I don't have something in, I will try and find it."

"I once found a Victorian upright piano and delivered it to a customer in Paris."

Mr Evans said he also once sold a trumpet to Roy Wood from Birmingham-based band Wizzard, and on another occasion a gyrating Elvis radio was bought by Alain Whyte, Morrissey's guitarist.

Furniture from the 1960s and 1970s is now being sought by visitors to the store and there has been a notable rise in teenage and younger customers in recent years. "They love the shabby chic and vintage look," said Mr Evans, who has also been selling from market stalls in Walsall for the past five years.

Heroes

Among the other antiques in the store are a 1949 Boys Book of Heroes annual, 1930s pixie statue and 1970s Donald Duck money box.

Mr Evans said he was called up on a weekly basis to take part in house clearances and was hoping to do more in the future, employing an additional member of staff to help.

The business was opened in Freer Street by John Owen, who was originally from Wednesbury, on April 3, 1969.

Mr Evans came to work for the business in 1992 - three years before Mr Owen died, aged 58.

The shop moved to its smaller base in George Street in 2009 because the former site was ruled structurally dangerous by engineers. The Grade II listed building was ordered to close by Walsall Council in December 2008.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A REPORT by Manpower, the specialist employment agency, says firms in the West Midlands are facing a shortage of skilled workers, despite the lengthening dole queue. As many as two out of three employers in the region are unable to find enough skilled people, being sought by 63 per cent of employers.

A TEN-YEAR-OLD boy was hailed as a hero after rescuing a family of five from their blazing home in Birmingham. Roger Simpson dashed to get a ladder from his garden when he heard the family crying for help, marshalling the Rashid family from an upstairs window.

SCOUTS from Wolverhampton trekked 36 miles in preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh award. The lads from Penn Scouts set off from Church Stoke and completed the Shropshire Summits walk in just over 13 hours.

1993...

A FIREMAN braved thick choking smoke to rescue a Rotweiler trapped in a blazing Smethwick home. But far from being a dangerous, snarling animal, the timid puppy cowered behind an upstairs toilet and had to be dragged to safety.

HORSE riders in Sedgley got the bit between their teeth over plans to ban them from a popular beauty spot. Three hundred people signed a petition opposing a proposal by Dudley Council to fence off parts of Cotwall End Valley.

A WALSALL couple were living out on a limb in a "detached" house after all the surrounding properties were bulldozed. William Price and his wife Bridget were left isolated after Walsall Council demolished 38 hard-to-let properties in Shakespeare Crescent, Harden.

2003...

HUNDREDS of Sikhs took part in a procession between Wednesfield and Willenhall to mark one of the holiest days in the religious calendar. Congregations from two gurdwaras in the towns embarked on a two-hour march from one to the other to celebrate Vaisakhi.

DUDLEY Zoo unveiled their new logo featuring rare Sumatran tiger triplets Jambi, Padang and Banda. The previous logo featuring an elephant had to be replaced after the zoo decided to move their two elephants, Flossie and Flora to a new home.

PLANS to expand Wolverhampton Business Airport drew protests from residents living near the Halfpenny Green site. More than 550 people crammed into All Saints' Church, Claverley, to voice their concerns.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

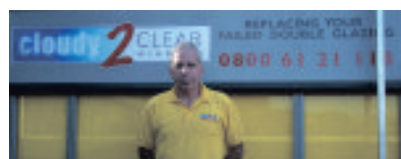
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If you double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.

Cloudy2Clear service Walsall and the surrounding area and Brian

is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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LETTERS

Hospital campaign danger

IN RESPONSE to Allan Kyte's letter, and wishing for some balance to the debate, I would hope that you can allow me to say this regarding "campaigner" Julie Bailey and this Cure the NHS movement.

Firstly, it would appear that by pushing the issue so far they are endangering all the people of Stafford's access or chance of health care. For now the Government seek to scale down services there, restricting people in Stafford of choices, as well as in Cannock.

Furthermore, this is having a knock on effect to those of you living in Walsall and the surrounding areas waiting for admission or surgery.

For when people from Stafford have occupied your beds overnight and then you get your surgery cancelled due to lack of capacity, you can thank these campaigners.

This applies to those in Wolverhampton too, for there is only a limited number of beds. When they are full, you will be denied access. But it would seem the Cure the NHS' movement have not thought of this.

Also, why call themselves Cure the

NHS for was it not only this hospital - not the whole system - that appeared at fault.

Eventually, if these people continue to lobby the Government in the way they are, they may succeed in closing the hospital.

Then where does this leave the people of Stafford? You may like to ask yourselves this question when asked to support them again. For as the old saying goes - you never know what you've got 'til it's gone!

MARK HOLBY
Wiley Avenue
Darlaston

Proposal to fell trees is opposed

WHEN we moved to Brownhills in 1976, the trees on the common were saplings. They are now full grown or mature pine trees (conifers). Is this why they are to be felled or harvested?

Has an environmental impact assessment been carried out in relation to wildlife in the area, such as the herd of deer that graze there or the numerous birds that populate the area?

Creatures

Newts and other small creatures benefit from so-called 'scrub' that provides ground cover and keeps walkers from treading on them.

Trees help to shield this lovely amenity from the increasing pollution generated by traffic using the A5. We were assured the A5 would be de-trunked when the toll road was completed but it is busier than ever. We are now informed,

courtesy of the Express & Star newspaper that details of the scheme are on display in the library. Why have no posters been displayed in the shopping area to this effect?

I might add that those pedestrians who wish to access the library, can find crossing the Lichfield Road very difficult. Why is there no crossing facility?

Since Rita Madeley alerted the public through the Express & Star, I have collected signatures in the Newton area and can say that with the exception of one person, all have expressed anger at the proposed felling of trees.

They are also extremely angry at the lack of consultation.

Our thanks to Rita, for alerting residents to this proposed 'environmental vandalism'.

SYLVIA JACKSON
Walling Street
Newtown

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle
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E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Extend green bus routes

FOLLOWING the encouraging news that the Darlaston Bus Interchange is to receive improvements and the local No 30 service provided by Walsall Community Transport has increased its local service to a 'every half hour', service campaigners are now calling on National Express to provide electric hybrid buses for Darlaston.

Building on the National Express introduction of several electric hybrid buses in neighbouring Wolverhampton, local bus users are now pressing for an extension of 'green buses' to include routes 34 and 79.

Darlaston bus users want to see 'green buses' across Darlaston not just in the cities. Both National Express and Centro will be receiving a petition from local bus users to support this initiative.

Making a cleaner, safer bus service is in the interests of bus users and local people. Producing a bus service that reduces air pollution will be a great improvement. For bus companies to invest in greener transport provision it is vital that we are all aware of how we can influence and encourage a greener, more environmentally-friendly service.

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NEWS

Shopping centre is to unveil new food court

A NEW food court is set to be created at Walsall's landmark Saddlers Shopping Centre, while a national chain is poised to take over one of its biggest empty units.

Units are being prepared for marketing for a new food court on the lower floor of the centre, off Park Street.

Bosses say they want to boost what the mall has to offer to keep shoppers flocking through the doors.

Property investment firm Topland Group bought the centre from Scottish Widows Investment Partnership for an undisclosed sum in February OF this year.

Reinforce

Bosses outlined their hopes for the future, as it emerged that a deal with a national retailer to take over the old Index store is "within touching distance".

Steve Pope, group asset manager for Topland, said: "Our overall objective is to reinforce the centre's position as the principal retail environment within Walsall town centre."

Mr Pope said since taking over on February 6, Topland

had helped push through 12 deals, ranging from new lettings to renewing arrangements with existing tenants in the centre.

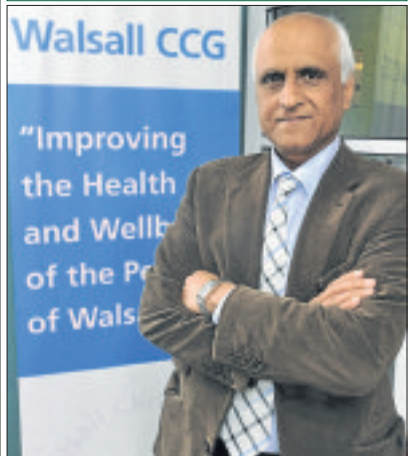
Coffee giant Costa is one of the newest businesses to be joining the Saddlers Shopping Centre, with one of its cafes opening later this month.

"We're also within touching distance of tying up a deal with a national retailer on the old Index unit," said Mr Pope.

"It's great to see someone moving in so quickly after it closed at around Christmas time."

In the short term, Topland wants to work to bring new businesses into the retail centre and create a food court offering a variety of eating choices for hungry shoppers.

Focus on care



"We want to improve life expectancy" - Amrik Gill, chairman of Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group

CONCENTRATING on care in the home, managing long-term conditions and improving life expectancy rates will be key issues for the new Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, says its chairman.

The group, which replaces the town's Primary Care Trust, will serve around 250,000 people and covers 67 GP practices. It will be responsible for handling around £338 million of taxpayers cash.

Dr Amrik Gill, chair of Walsall CCG, said that work in making changes had already begun but there was much more to do. He explained that feedback from patient participation groups, set up in surgeries throughout Walsall, would be taken into account in the group's action plans. The group will also work with the local authority.

Goals

"These are very early days," said Dr Gill, a GP in the Bentley area for 30 years. "The main aims and goals will be to increase the health and wellbeing of the people of Walsall. "Walsall is a deprived area. Life expectancy in the east is higher than the west. We want to improve life expectancy. "We will focus on how to prevent long-term conditions like diabetes and how to make people more self aware of their conditions and look after them better to prevent complications."

He said the group aimed to encourage care in the home. "The challenges are huge but if we can pull it off the opportunities are great. The CCG has to really work with the people," added Dr Gill.

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NEWS

Life is so sweet as cake business plans to grow



"We are going into new markets" – Gurdeep Singh Bath with his cakes

Cul-de-sac to be wider

PLANS to create extra parking spaces and widen a cul-de-sac in Walsall have been given the go-ahead by council chiefs.

Extra room for emergency vehicles to get through Woodward's Place, Alumwell, will be created as part of the plans put forward by Walsall Housing Group.

The road goes around a central grassed area but is narrow, meaning cars find it difficult to pass. It also sees vehicles blocking part of the carriageway.

The application creates parking spaces on the central island with 23 additional plots to serve the 18 properties.

The report says: "The parking

spaces have been laid out around the turning circle, meaning that residents can see their cars from their windows with ease. Being close to their properties, it is hoped that this will encourage those with cars to use the new spaces rather than parking on the road."

The proposal has received planning permission under delegated powers.

Council head of planning David Elsworth said: "The increased width of the highway will allow better access for refuse and emergency vehicles. The provision of parking spaces off road will benefit the local residents and improve highway safety."

NEW jobs are on the horizon at a Walsall cake-making firm as bosses plan to open a second factory in the town.

Bosses at Perfection Foods Ltd, which opened its current base at Walsall Enterprise Park in February last year, say business is booming thanks to a new range that is being trialled in Europe and America.

A new UK range is also due to launch shortly and the company is looking for a second site in Walsall to open a much bigger factory in the next two or three years.

Export director Gurdeep Singh Bath said the move would create jobs but he could not yet say how many.

He said the family firm's old site in Wednesbury may also open for production again in the future for making specialist cakes, such as those that are gluten-free.

Production

Mr Bath, 33, of Park Hall, said: "We are going into new markets. We have increased our capacity and production significantly in the last year. Production has grown more than 40 per cent."

"We are in discussions about having another site. The business is expanding. It will probably be another two or three years before that happens. The new site would be for mass markets and would be for mass production."

The company produces more than a million cakes a week and bakes more than 40 products. Its Chelsea Bakery range has been developed for the export market and is being trialled this year, with an official launch planned for next year.

Mr Bath said the brand was already selling better than expected and the firm was sending "truck loads" of cakes abroad.

The brand, Cake Basket, will be available in Booker Cash and Carry nationwide.

Mr Bath added: "The business started out with my father supplying corner shops in the area and it's really exciting how it is expanding."

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Locks building makes way for 50 new homes



The 1930s Union Locks building, in Wood Street, Willenhall, has gone



The former factory site is being cleared for a housing development

AN HISTORIC former lock building in Willenhall has now been pulled down, bringing a £5.2 million housing development a step closer to reality.

Almost 50 homes will be built at the former Josiah Parkes factory site in Wood Street. The locally-listed former Union Locks building has now been flattened to bring the scheme forward.

The developer had to apply for special permission for the demolition because of the 1930s building's heritage status. It has been reduced to rubble and the site is being cleared ready for work to start.

There will be 35 two, three and four-bedroom homes and 12 two-bedroom apartments built on the site in the coming months.

Waiting

They will be developed by Accord Group and Westbury Partnerships, along with Walsall Council. It will provide homes for people on rental housing waiting lists and work is expected to be completed by late autumn this year.

Willenhall South Councillor Sean Coughlan has welcomed the work to regenerate the site. He said: "I'm pleased the development is going forward."

"It's been a long time coming. We always saw it as part of the regeneration of the town centre."

Les Burrows, chairman of Willenhall History Society, added: "You hate to see these things go but it had to be done."

"You can't hold on to things forever. People need housing and I am glad they are doing something with the site."

The new development is part of Accord Group's plans to build 1,500 new homes across the West Midlands in the next four years.

Josiah Parkes and Sons acquired the land in Wood Street in 1883 and bought further sites in Union Street and Wood Street.

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NEWS

New health watchdog is to represent the public

A NEW health and care watchdog to represent the views of people in Walsall has started working.

Healthwatch Walsall has been formed by a consortium of local organisations. All local authorities have been obliged to create a Healthwatch group by this month under new Government legislation.

It will listen to peoples' feedback about their experiences, let health and care providers know how patients feel about services. It is also to support people if they make a complaint about services and help inform residents about where to go when they need health or care services.

Vital

Councillor Zahid Ali, chairman of Walsall's Health and Wellbeing Board, said: "It is only fitting that key local organisations which have already forged strong relationships with residents have successfully come together to pool their expertise and establish this important new body.

"It is vital that the experiences of local people are heard and that these experiences are used to shape improvements, and Healthwatch Walsall is an important communication channel for this very purpose."

Healthwatch Walsall will be an independent organisation and will report to national body Healthwatch England.

Organisations involved in the consortium include Age UK Walsall, Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau, Walsall Housing Group, MyNHS Walsall and Walsall Link.

More school places

AN additional six spaces will be provided at Phoenix Primary Special School, Darlaston, from September increasing the number of places available to 36, after the school received the go-ahead from Walsall Council.

Minor alterations will be required at the school as a result.

Girls net success



Front Hannah Beebee, left, and captain Maddie Turner, with back from left, Becky Stewart, Amy Shaw, Libby Redshaw, Emma Fardell, Charlotte Pardington, Immy Hayes and Sian Amos

GIRLS at a Walsall school are celebrating after netting fourth place in a top UK netball competition.

The team from Aldridge School were among more than 1,500 school teams that entered the National Schools Netball Tournament.

The Year 10 and 11 team improved on their top 10 ranking the year before at the finals in Essex.

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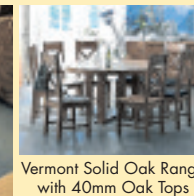


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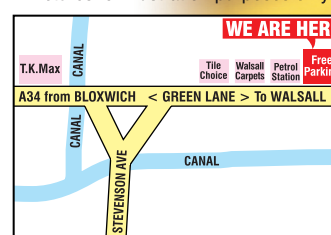
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NEWS

Rare-breed dogs are a target for thieves

RARE breeds of dog are being stolen from Black Country homes and sold every year, with some being taken by thieves who then demand a ransom.

Chihuahuas, Japanese akitas, Siberian huskies and lurchers are among more than 400 animals taken by thieves over the past three years.

Experts say the poor state of the economy means dogs are being stolen by people "looking to make a fast buck" and cash in on high-value animals, with some being sold in pubs.

Figures obtained by the Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star show that since 2010, 443 dogs were reported stolen across the Staffordshire, West Midlands and West Mercia police force areas.

The Kennel Club, the largest UK organisation for dogs' health and welfare, said more needed to be done to protect dogs.

Missing

Spokesman Bill Lambert said: "There appears to be an increase in dog thefts and dogs going missing."

"The stories we get are of a lot of dogs being stolen from gardens and places where they are tied up, such as outside shops."

"We hear of more and more stories, possibly attached to the poor economy and times of hardship, where people will steal anything to make a fast buck."

"We hear of dogs being sold in pubs for just £50 or £100."

"What is more worrying is that dogs are being stolen and then returned to the owners for a ransom payment. The number of those stories is increasing, so that is a real concern."

Figures, revealed after a Freedom of Information request by the Express &



Heartache - Michael Lambeth of Willenhall with a bulldog puppy named Eva. Star, show that 216 dogs were stolen in the West Midlands since 2010, a further 114 in Staffordshire and 113 in West Mercia.

The most common breed stolen is the Staffordshire bull terrier. Siberian huskies can be sold for up to £700 legitimately while Japanese akitas can fetch up to £1,200 each. On the black market, animals would be sold for a fraction of those prices.

Michael Lambeth, 55, told of his

heartache since his Willenhall home was broken into and three bulldog puppies taken in January.

Mr Lambeth says he is constantly looking over his shoulder, in fear that the culprits may return.

He said: "I just felt so sick when I realised they'd taken the puppies - I bottle-fed those pups from day one."

"I'm always on edge - just going up the garden I'm looking over my shoulder."

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NEWS

Judges declare Ben's éclair is the cream



Neil Atkins, head chef at Fairlawns Hotel and Spa, with catering apprentices Evelyn Bera, from Dudley College, Adam Crompton, from Stourbridge College, competition winner Benjamin Griffiths and runner-up Joseph Graham, both Walsall College, and John Pettie, owner of Fairlawns, after the competition

CATERING apprentices at Walsall College have proved that too many chefs don't spoil the broth with a week-long cook off. The pupils recently showcased their talents in front of some of the Midlands' top chefs producing a selection of complex and challenging dishes to demonstrate their skills. Events organised as part of National Apprenticeship Week included an inter-college challenge between Dudley, Sandwell, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton Colleges where students were shown how to produce the perfect chocolate éclair by last year's Midlands Chef of the Year, Neil Atkins from Fairlawns Hotel and Spa, before facing off against each other.

Top honours went to Walsall catering apprentices Benjamin Griffiths, who was first, and runner-up Luke Bamford. They were presented with a certificate and a £50 and £25 voucher respect, by college principal and chief executive Jatinder Sharma.

College sales manager Helen Bosworth said: "The week has been a great showcase of local skills and helped to put Apprenticeships in the spotlight. The events have really helped to capture the spirit of Apprenticeship Week, which is designed to raise the profile of apprenticeships amongst employers, teachers, parents and school pupils and it's also a great time to celebrate apprentices' achievements. "All the apprentices that have taken part have shown great enthusiasm and professionalism."

Youngsters clean up streets

YOUNG people have been painting and cleaning up areas hit by graffiti and litter.

Birchills Primary School pupils and Walsall College students tackled Farnington Street, Birchills, in a project supported by North Walsall area partnership. The scheme encourages young people and others in the community to look after their neighbourhood.

More than 40 students turned up to spruce up the streets of Birchills with their original artwork. Councillor Ian Shires, communities and voluntary sector boss with Walsall Council, said the event was a great success.

"I am pleased so many people turned up to show their support and I look forward to seeing their artwork in the near future," he said. "It is important for everyone to become involved in

their community and take responsibility for issues like littering and graffiti.

"Only by individuals taking an active interest in looking after the area where they live will we build safe, strong communities and this is a great example of that."

The project also works with the New Art Gallery Walsall to encourage young people to develop their artistic skills in new and inventive ways.

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NEWS

Campaigners calling for meeting on tree threat

Youth centre memories



Memory appeal – Dusan Popratnjak at Aldridge Manor Youth Centre
THE history of a youth centre in Aldridge is to be recalled through a new book recounting its popularity over the decades.

Dusan Popratnjak was a youth leader at Aldridge Manor House Youth Centre for 20 years between the 1970s and 1990s.

The 57-year-old is now appealing for photographs and stories from visitors and members which can feature in the publication.

The attendance manager at Shire Oak School said that around 400 people attended Friday night discos at the centre in Little Aston Road at the peak of its popularity in the 70s.

Regular trips to London, Drayton

Manor, ten pin bowling venues and football matches were run from the youth club, along with football and cricket teams. Over the years scores of young people have enjoyed activities such as table tennis, pool, darts, quizzes and pin ball machines.

Photographs

The father-of-one, chairman of the Aldridge Residents Association, is now asking for anyone with photographs and stories to get in touch.

Former magistrate Mr Popratnjak, of Whetstone Lane, Aldridge, has a publisher lined up and already has 200 pages completed. Anyone who can contribute can call 07790 446670.

CAMPAIGNERS against plans to chop down trees at Brownhills Common to create more heathland are calling for a public meeting over the proposals.

Hundreds of people have signed a petition against plans to increase the amount of heathland at the beauty spot from 36 per cent to 60 per cent. It would mean the possible felling of just under half of the area's trees – a move which has sparked concern.

Now campaigners are calling for a public meeting so people can find out more and also air their views on the plans.

Demand

Some residents fear the removal of trees could drive deer away from the site.

Barrie Poxon, vice chairman of the Local Brownhills Committee, said the main aim for campaigners now was to force a meeting.

"The petition is still doing the rounds and is in many shops in Brownhills and a lot of people have signed it," said the 72-year-old.

"But the main thing we want is a public meeting."

Walsall Council has teamed up with Natural England to increase the amount of lowland heathland at the common, which has been designated a site of special scientific interest.

Lowland heathland is considered a "rare and threatened habitat".

They insist no mature trees would be cut down but scrub, conifers and bramble would be cleared.

Consultation will take place before any work starts and the Forestry Commission have to give final approval.

Council leisure boss Anthony Harris said: "People understandably become very anxious when there is a suggestion of tree felling."

"But the last thing our countryside services team would support is something that would be detrimental to such an important site."



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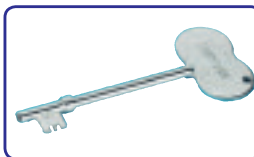
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NEWS

Civic leaders join traditional Sikh community procession

CENTURIES of tradition were marked in colourful style when members of the Sikh community paraded from Wednesfield to Willenhall on Sunday.

Around 2,000 people – most of them dressed in bright orange – played instruments and sang hymns as on the annual Vaisakhi procession.

Dignitaries including Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Christine Mills and Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds joined in the community event.

The celebrations began at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Well Lane, Wednesfield, at 10am and finished at the Guru

Nank Sikh Gurdwara in Walsall Road, Willenhall – some three miles away – at 1.30pm.

Roads were closed along the route as crowds walked through the streets or travelled on floats at the huge parade.

The main float carried the Sikh holy book while two other floats carried people singing and playing music.

Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal, of Wednesfield South ward, was among the organisers. He said it had been a perfect procession full of people enjoying themselves and celebrating Vaisakhi.

"It was a fantastic day," Councillor Gakhal added. "We had beautiful weather."

"It's a very important day in the Sikh calendar. We're talking about centuries of tradition."



Youngsters with flags at the colourful Vaisakhi procession



Standard bearers line up as Sikhs prepare for the community parade to Willenhall



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NEWS

Five-day road closure

A BUSY road in Walsall will be closed for five days while resurfacing work is carried out. Broad Lane in Shelfield will be closed between the junctions of Mill Road and Broad Way.

The closure will come into force on Monday, April 15, until April 19 and will be between the hours of 8am and 5pm. Work is being carried out by Tarmac on behalf of Walsall Council. Meanwhile, drivers will face temporary traffic lights in Lichfield Road, Bloxwich, at its junction with Livingstone Road.

Peppa brings smiles



Peppa Pig with Isabella Morris, aged nine months and Kirsty Morris, of Ashmore Park, at New Cross Hospital

ILL youngsters at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital got a surprise when Peppa Pig paid a timely Easter visit with some chocolate goodies – thanks to the generosity of a Willenhall man.

A donation of 40 Easter eggs was made to the hospital's C15 children's ward and they were delivered by the popular children's TV character. Michael Donovan, aged 38, of Willenhall, a regular patient at the hospital, bought the eggs as he wanted to give something back to the hospital where he is being treated for stomach problems.

Mr Donovan said: "I couldn't hand the chocolates out myself, unfortunately, but Peppa was a great substitute and the kids looked so happy."

Under-fire service cuts one in five agency staff

THE NUMBER of agency staff in Walsall's under-fire children's services department has been cut by more than 20 per cent in two months after a damning Ofsted report.

Calls were made to improve "inadequate" care of vulnerable children, and new children's services boss Rose Collinson stepped into her role calling for a cut in agency staff.

She said they needed "consistent staff who know Walsall children and Walsall communities".

Agency staff has been reduced from 52 to 40 in the last two months, with plans for a similar reduction over six months.

Permanent

A team of 110 permanent staff has 82 social workers and 28 senior practitioners.

Ofsted said council safeguarding services, and its capacity to improve, was inadequate after a two-week June inspection.

An improvement notice was served on it.

Workforce planning was criticised for "frequent use of agency workers and 'rela-

tively inexperienced" staff group.

Ms Collinson said: "In the past two months, we have achieved a reduction of 23 per cent in agency staff numbers, from 52 to 40."

"We aim to reduce a similar number in the next six months in line with the development of the service and the needs and priorities of our children and families."

A group of councillors will visit parts of children's services to find out how the system works.

A report will then go to the children's and young people's scrutiny panel.

It emerged last year that the number of agency staff placements in the children's services department more than doubled in eight months.

by Lisa O'Brien

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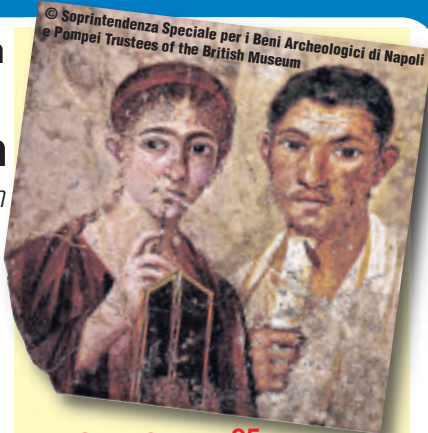
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Some of the highlights of the exhibition include a wall painting of the baker Terentius Neo and his wife (as shown above); a gold bracelet in the form of a coiled snake, 1st Century AD, Roman Pompeii; and a Carbonised wooden cradle.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Relics of the Romans and an icon of rock

NEW blockbuster exhibitions are proving a huge draw at two of London's most famous museums, offering an insight into the lives of Roman communities frozen in time and a look at the creative genius of a rock legend.

At the British Museum, Life and Death Pompeii and Herculaneum brings together more than 250 fascinating relics, including many recent discoveries, from the Roman towns smothered by volcanic ash in AD 79 when Mount Vesuvius erupted.

Family

The display recreates a typical Roman home with many items that would be familiar today, from tweezers to a baby's cradle. With their liking for food and drink, petty squabbles and politics revealed by graffiti, love of family shown in portraits, this reveals the Romans as very similar to us. That is poignant when seeing the resin and plaster casts of Romans frozen at the moment of death, including a family, parents thrown back by explosive heat as a child attempts to escape. Life and Death Pompeii and Herculaneum continues until September 29.

At The Victoria and Albert Museum, David Bowie Is will delight fans of the chameleon rock star who recently returned to the limelight with his first album in ten years. Putting the Bowie phenomena into a cultural context, fans will relish the chance to see iconic costumes – including Ziggy Stardust outfits – and read original handwritten lyrics including scribbled out alternative lines. The display ends in a hall of giant video screens, like a cathedral dedicated to Bowie. It continues until August 11. Best to book ahead as ticket demand is massive.



Wall painting of the baker Terentius Neo and his wife from Pompeii, circa AD 50-79

A home from Holmes on Baker Street

THE PARK Plaza Sherlock Holmes is a stylish modern hotel in a period Baker Street building, which pays tribute to its illustrious fictional Victorian neighbour.

The homage to Holmes can be seen in works of art inspired by the Great Detective, from a deer-stalker clad bust behind the bar to contemporary art in Sherlock's Grill. The family-friendly restaurant doubles as location for traditional buffet breakfast and evening eatery of this boutique hotel.

With its charcoal grill and wood-fired oven, the AA rosette restaurant specialises in contemporary British cuisine made with fresh, UK-sourced ingredients. This

includes dishes such as Cornish crab, West Country beef steaks, apple and sultana crumble with cinnamon ice cream.

The hotel has 119 rooms, including impressive split-level loft suites suitable for a family of four. These have queen-sized bed, sofa bed, two toilets, two TVs, bath and walk-in shower.

The hotel has a central location on bustling Baker Street, a short walk from Madame Tussauds, Oxford Street, the Sherlock Holmes Museum and Baker St Underground Station. See the website www.parkplaza.com/sherlockholmes, call 0207 486 6161 or email ppsh@pphe.com.



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Betty is free from pain after having implants

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring aging process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.



Transformations

Suction another solution

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The den-

ture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference."

'Toolbox'

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can

present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants."

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.

Making the transformation and providing a cost-effective solution for upper and lower denture stability, the Ultra Suction prosthetics use a clever diaphragm system to help provide wearers with greater dental security

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenthal Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer – call 01902 539300 for a free consultation. We can also be found at the Fresh Dental practice, 4 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, B67 5DG. Call 01384 348594 to book an appointment

NEWS

Late winter weather to delay return of pitches

Vintage movie style



The style of the 1940s is revived for the Another Time, Another Place project with Ruth Swallow, Elena Cassidey and John Bates

THE sights and sounds of 1940s Britain, including a vintage cinema, were recreated at a shopping centre in Walsall.

It was part of a project by youngsters at Blue Coat Junior School who are exploring the stories of wartime evacuees.

To share their studies with the wider public, the pupils from the Springhill Road school went along to the Saddlers Shopping Centre.

The cinema showed Second World War films, documentaries and films made by the children. There was also a display of their project work.

Year 6 pupils at Blue Coat have been working on the Another Time, Another Place project, a Heritage Lottery funded scheme, for several months. The project focuses on personal stories of evacuation during the Second World War, linking them to the present day.

THE REOPENING of contaminated playing fields in Walsall for sports will be delayed because of the bad weather.

Ball games are due to return to Broadway West Playing Fields for the first time in a decade as part of £400,000 plans to make the land safe. Sports have been banned at the site since 2003 following the discovery of dangerous metals in soil samples.

Leisure chiefs are carrying out work to bring the field back into use, with new top soil being laid. Football was expected to return this September with cricket the following summer.

But the bad spells of weather in the first three months of the year, with regular snow flurries, has meant the land will not be ready for 2013-14 football season.

Cold

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "The unusually late cold spell that we are experiencing means that this work has not commenced as soon as we would have liked. It is unlikely that the site will be ready for football later this year."

"It is important to allow the grass to establish and the last thing we want is for it to be spoilt by playing on it too early."

"The council is investing substantial money into bringing this site back into beneficial use for the community. Whilst the delays caused by the adverse weather might be frustrating, it is more important that we get it right, and provide some first rate facilities in an area that needs them."

There have been long-standing calls for the fields, off Broadway West, to be reopened for sports.

Make a notebook

ADULTS can make leather notebooks at Walsall Leather Museum on April 27. Sarah Benson will be leading the session between 10am and 3pm and places can be booked for £20. Call 01922 721153 or 01922 653116.

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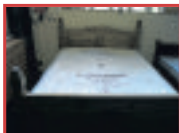

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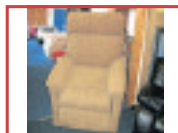
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Search is on for royalty to appear at carnival

THE search is on for this year's Pelsall Carnival royalty as the committee makes preparations for the 2013 event this summer.

A contest to find the latest carnival queen, plus her rosebud and princess, will take place at Pelsall Carnival Centre on Sunday, April 28.

Carnival queen selection will take place from 1.15pm for entrants aged 15 to 25 years of age, followed by rosebud and princess selection at 3pm.

Prizes

Princess entrants should be aged 11 to 14 and rosebud entrants aged six to 10.

Various prizes are up for grabs, including £100 for the winner, £50 for the runner-up and £25 for the third place entrant.

The winners will also take pride of place at the carnival on July 6.

For more information contact Ian Rhydderch on 01922 684695.

Songs from the shows

WEST End glamour comes to Pelsall when singer Keir Pedley performs hits from some of the most popular musicals of the 20th century at Pelsall Community Centre on tomorrow night, Friday.

Tickets for the show are available in advance for £8 by calling 07783 419657 or 01960 503512.

Concern over exit at new centre car park

LESS than two weeks after the opening of Pelsall Village Centre, including the new library, the facility has come in for criticism from some users after problems emerged with parking for the site.

by Tom Mason

Concerns have been raised about sight lines on leaving the centre's new car park, caused by vehicles parked in the road after a set of double yellow line on the High Street junction were introduced as part of the improvements.

Resident Maureen Payton, cChairman of the Friends of Pelsall Common, said she was slightly disappointed considering the success of the new building.

Encourage

"It's always been a problem but with the new development we expected the problem would go away," she said.

"If we can encourage more people to park on the new car park, rather than the road, then the problem will be solved."

Pelsall Councillor Marco Longhi said that he had spoken to engineers from Walsall Council who are already looking to resolve the issue by extending the yellow lines around the junction.

They may also add extra signs to encourage more appropriate parking by

motorists who may not be aware of the extra parking that is now available at the centre.

Councillor Anthony Harris, the council's portfolio holder for leisure and culture, said: "We're keen to hear how Pelsall Village Centre is going down with people and I'm pleased to say the response has been really positive."

"It's only been a few weeks since the building opened so we're keeping an eye on how it is bedding in."

He added: "We are currently exploring if we can make the exit safer by putting in some measures to keep the entrance clear."

The new library, which has longer opening hours than the former library, saw more than 850 people visit on its opening day.

On the first floor is a health centre with room for four GP practices and a large open-plan waiting area.

The centre also includes a children's centre and pharmacy.



Pupils Faith Whitehouse, aged 8, front, Charlie Bull, aged 7, Dion Minto, aged 8, and Makenzi Showell, aged 8, who took part in Mad March Hair at Pelsall Village School

Hair raising antics are for charity

PUPILS from a school in Pelsall have been letting their hair down to raise money for a diabetes charity.

The Mad March Hair Day at Pelsall Village School saw pupils wear wigs and do their hair in crazy styles to raise money for the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation.

Pupils took part in a walk around the school hall with each participant paying £1 to carry a balloon to show support for the charity.

Styles

The school decided to raise money and awareness in recognition of former pupils who have diabetes.

Headteacher Mrs Jane Clark said in her blog: "There were lots of fantastic styles showing flair and imagination."

The foundation carries out research into type 1 diabetes, a condition that affects around 29,000 children in the UK.

A circle of friends to help with difficulties

A SUPPORT group has been launched to help people with learning difficulties in Pelsall and Sheffield make friends.

Funded through the local area partnership, the newly formed Circle of Friends Sheffield group already has 30 members.

Meetings held weekly at St Marks Church Hall in Green Lane involve teenagers to adults with learning difficulties getting involved with activities that have included art activities.

Positive

Treasurer Juanita Garlington said the group has enjoyed a positive start and members were already talking about expansion.

"It's a lovely way for people, who don't normally have the chance to bond with others, to feel accepted and not have to worry about what others may think of them," she said.

For more information contact Dena Smith on 07841 869186.

Standard to be dedicated

INVITED guests will be taking part in the dedication of Pelsall Royal British Legion's standard later this month. Founded a year ago, the branch has gone from strength to strength. On April 28 members will join a number of special guests as the flag is blessed at St Michael and All Angels Church at 3pm.

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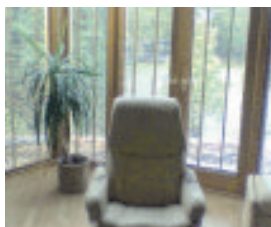
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MP urges council to safeguard the baths



Pool is valued – Valerie Vaz, Walsall South MP

AN MP is urging council chiefs to keep Walsall's landmark Gala Baths open after its future was thrown into doubt.

It emerged that closure was a long-term option as part of a review of leisure facilities but Walsall Council bosses insist closure is "highly unlikely."

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz, who has written to the council on the issue, said: "Walsall Gala Baths is home to the only brine pool in the West Midlands and I know this resource is valued by many of my constituents."

"Many people are put off by the unpleasant effects of chlorine on their skin and hair and so we are very fortunate to have the brine pool available to use in Walsall."



Walsall Gala Baths includes the only brine pool available in the region

"Given the Olympic legacy and the need to get people to take more exercise, any move to close the Gala Baths would be resisted."

Council leader Mike Bird has said the building is past its "sell-by date" and its closure and moving services elsewhere was a possibility being considered but stressed that no decisions had been made.

A new leisure centre is planned for Oak Park, Walsall Wood, and another in Bloxwich.

The issue of the town centre pool was raised at a council scrutiny meeting as a presentation was given on leisure facilities. A revamp of the baths may be considered.

Group is backing more brewers in the borough

A GROUP which offered support to an historic brewery in Walsall for more than a decade – and spearheaded a campaign to save it – is to raise the profile of other breweries in the borough.

The Friends of Highgate Brewery, a voluntary organisation set up in 1995, has announced it will work with breweries and micro-breweries to offer support.

The group has opened talks with bosses at the expanding Backyard Brewhouse, based in Brownhills.

Steve Orford, chairman of the group,

said the decision to look further afield was taken because members were uncertain about the future of Grade II-listed Highgate Brewery, in Sandy-mount Road, Highgate, which is more than 115-years-old.

Horizons

The group, which has around 90 members, campaigned to save the brewery after it shut three years ago, with the loss of 22 jobs.

A 'Save Highgate Brewery' Facebook group was launched and it was joined by more than 1,900 members.

The brewery was taken over by a private consortium later that year which announced plans to transform the hospitality suite into a mini-museum and to open a shop.

Mr Orford said members had last spoken to bosses about plans for the brewery more than a year ago but efforts to contact them since had failed.

He explained: "We are hoping to expand our horizons and be friends of Walsall breweries, rather than just Highgate."

"We are carrying on our ethos and are supporting local breweries."

"At the moment we have Backyard Brewhouse on board. They are expanding quite vastly and have reopened The Fountain Inn."

"We are not taking our eye off the ball when it comes to Highgate but we want to support other breweries too," he added.

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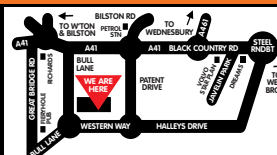
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MEMORY LANE



Walsall Station flooded by old South Staffs rail building



South Staffordshire Railway Station building, about 1965



Walsall Station seen in its final days, Park Street in 1978



Troops at Walsall leaving to fight in the Second World War



Shunt locomotive no 47396 taking on water in Walsall

Town took pride in a grand central station

BACK in the good old days, Walsall was adorned by a grand railway station, the heart of the town's transport system.

The first railway line through Walsall – the Grand Junction Railway between Birmingham and Warrington – had opened in 1837, with a station at Besot Bridge. In 1847 South Staffordshire Railway opened a temporary station in Bridgeman Place, linking with the Grand Junction line. The Wichnor Junction line to Dudley opened in 1849, connecting with Walsall.

A magnificent new building, designed by Queen Mary's Grammar School 'old boy' Edward Adams, was built for the South Staffordshire Railway in Station Street that year.

The SSR opened the Cannock line in 1858, extending to Rugeley 1859. The London and North Western Railway took over the Cannock line in 1861, widening Walsall Station to accommodate

by Stuart Williams

freight trains. The Wolverhampton Line was opened in 1872 by the Wolverhampton and Walsall Railway. By then the Midland Railway was negotiating for running rights to Walsall.

Walsall Station was rebuilt in 1883 with a main entrance in Park Street and separate booking offices for the LNWR and Midland Railways. The LNWR owned the station. The old station became used for parcels and administration.

In March 1916 a fire damaged the booking hall but due to the First World War the station could only be patched up.

The iron and glass canopy forming the Park Street entrance was retained when an imposing new circular booking hall and concourse were built after the war. Adorned with Grecian-style pillars, leaded roof windows and oak-panelled walls, this beautiful building, opened in 1923 by the LNWR Dis-

trict Superintenden, Mr. J.F. Bradford, is well remembered by older local people.

With the growth of car ownership, the station's importance declined. The 'Beeching Axe' in 1965 left passenger trains between Walsall and Birmingham only. Walsall Station was virtually defunct by 1977 when the service went hourly.

In 1978 the old station was replaced with the Saddlers Centre, opened in 1980. The station became little more than a glorified halt with a tiny ticket office and concourse.

In the late 20th century, however, rail passenger services underwent a national revival, including Walsall Station.

■ Prints of pictures shown and thousands more are available to purchase by special order, as well as a wide range of books, from Walsall Local History Centre. Drop into the centre in Essex Street, part of Walsall Council. Telephone 01922 721305. For more information see: www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre



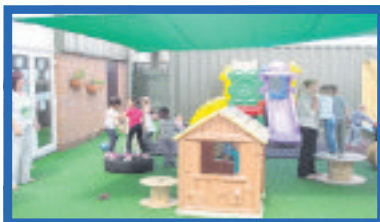
Locomotive no 42758 pulls an excursion train into Walsall Station

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CLUB NEWS

Tour of Commons enjoyed

AT the AGM in March the committee agreed to continue for the forthcoming year. After the business was completed, the guild enjoyed a cheese and wine supper.

The ladies were also invited by South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson to visit the Houses of Parliament.

PERTON JUBILEE TOWNSWOMEN

ment. They were met and given a conducted tour by Mr Williamson and his assistants. The MP also gave a

talk on the history of Parliament.

Later in March, the club enjoyed a meal at The Fox of Shipley to celebrate the guild's birthday.

Seven members will join the Federation's three-day break to attend the national AGM at Harrogate.

Guest speaker tells of charity work in Kolkata



Marilyn Bose was the guest speaker

MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

THE March meeting began with a talk from Mrs Marilyn Bose entitled "Mother Teresa and Calcutta."

Mrs Bose is the widow of a well-known Wolverhampton GP who maintained both professional and personal links with his birthplace Calcutta, now Kolkata. They worked with Bilston Rotary Club to raise donations for Mother Teresa's Charity and were invited to meet her. Marilyn describes Mother Teresa as tiny, inspiring, with a super sense of humour and the ability to speak many languages. Marilyn as been visiting Kolkata for 27 years, spending a month at a time working wherever she is sent. Marilyn spoke of the charity work being carried out and showed off the hand-made teddy bears and knitted vests that volunteers make for the orphans.

Following a short tea break Ms Maggie Thompson from Age UK Dudley gave an interesting talk on the leisure and exercise activities available through the LEAP Over 50 project.

On April 24 John Billingham will describe "Our Stour from Clent to Stourport".

Chocolate bunnies for quiz winner

THE March meeting, opened by chairman Doreen Armstrong, also included the AGM. Doreen welcomed those in attendance and praised them for braving the icy conditions.

Monthly reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley, outings co-ordinator Brenda Ellesmere and Press officer Iris Harris.

Three ladies received prizes of soap bunnies in the monthly raffle.

BLACKHEATH M TWG

Iris Harris opened the AGM. The general report was produced and read by Doreen Smith and accepted by members. She was given a vote of thanks.

The treasurer presented her report which was adopted and seconded and she was given a vote of thanks.

A small change was announced to standing orders. Iris then announced the committee for the next year.

Doreen presented a bouquet of flowers to Evelyn Edwards, who was retiring after more than 13 years on the committee.

The winners of the quiz and bingo were rewarded with chocolate bunnies.

The speaker at the April 24 meeting will be David Berry on "A Day in Court".



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What's On! Walsall

Oh what a Jersey night at the Alex

AMERICAN tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, New Jersey Nights, comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Wednesday, April 15-17.

There has been an upsurge in popularity for the 1960s and 70s hitmakers since the success of Jersey Boys on Broadway and the West End.

Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons themselves will be in concert at the LG Arena on June 23.

The tribute show New Jersey Nights will also be at Stoke's Regent Theatre from April 29 to May 1.

Ukelele Matt will be entertaining

AN afternoon variety concert is being staged at Darlaston Town Hall today (Thursday). Matt Richards will perform on his ukelele from 1.30pm. Tickets cost £2.50 on the door.

Walsall borough organist Peter Morris will be performing on the organ at Walsall Town Hall next Thursday, April 18. The show takes place from 1pm and tickets are £2.

School orchestra in Viennese whirl

MUSIC in the romantic Viennese style will be performed at Aldridge Youth Theatre next week.

Aldridge School orchestra and band will perform at the Noddy Park Road venue on April 21 from 8pm. Tickets for the 'A Night in Vienna' event are £5. Call 01922 458615 to book.

Deadpan comedy from a star spangled grouch



Downbeat American comedian Rich Hall

Kung fu and opera

THE Shaolin Warriors, showing their kung fu skills at Wolverhampton Grand on Sunday (4pm).

English Touring Opera sing Mozart's Così Fan Tutte in English at the Grand on Monday and Verdi's Simon Boccanegra in Italian on Tuesday.

Favourite showtunes will be sung in Beyond The Baricade at the Grand on Thursday, April 18.

THE FROWN from cowtown comes to Wolverhampton next week when deadpan American stand-up comic Rich Hall brings his keen-eyed observations on the absurd and ironic on both sides of the Atlantic.

The downbeat comedian, who divides his time between Montana and London, has become a popular regular on British TV panel shows, including QI, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Have I Got News For You.

West

He has also presented a series of wry documentaries for BBC TV looking at the Hollywood image of the American West, Deep South and the native American.

The comedian, also known for his redneck alter-ego Otis Lee Crenshaw, will present An Evening with Rich Hall at the Wulfrun Hall on Thursday, April 18. Tickets cost £15. Call 0870 320 7000.



Million dollar quintet – superstar Welsh mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins will join top 'popera' group Il Divo in concert at the LG Arena, Birmingham, on Saturday night

Diva and Il Divo in concert

IN one of the most eagerly anticipated classical crossover concerts of the year, opera diva Katherine Jenkins and top 'popera' quartet Il Divo will unite at the LG Arena on Saturday.

The Welsh mezzo soprano and the phenomenal four have more than 30 million album sales between them, and will be performing in concert together for the first time on this tour.

Both Il Divo and Katherine Jenkins will perform classical interpretations of popular songs with an orchestra, and will also come together for duets.

Ticket prices range from £35 to £85, plus booking and transaction fees. Call the ticket hotline on 0844 338 800.

Marillion fans in Civic weekender

FANS of the rock band Marillion will be descending upon Wolverhampton Civic Hall this weekend for the UK's second Marillion Weekender.

The group, still best known for the hit Kayleigh, sung by their former frontman Fish, will be performing three concerts over three nights.

They begin on Friday by performing their 1993 album Radiation in its entirety. They also hope to break a world record by filming and releasing a DVD of the gig in record time. On Saturday the album Brave gets the full concert treatment and then the band present a secret set on Sunday.

Fans are coming from as far as Canada and Venezuela for the weekend, costing £110 for all three gigs.

Tears before bed with Mister Tom

POIGNANT wartime story Goodnight Mister Tom, about an elderly widower who reluctantly takes in an evacuee boy, is being staged at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre this week, with its last performance on Saturday.

This award-nominated production, adapted by David Wood from the popular novel by Michelle Magorian, features Olivier award winning actor Oliver Ford Davies as Mister Tom, a role played by the late John Thaw in the television version.

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Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 13.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

Golf: The Masters – Live BBC2, 7.30pm
The Masters continues this evening with the third round at the Augusta National in Georgia, where the leaderboard should start to take shape on what is often referred to as 'moving day'. The players no longer have any fear of missing the cut and are able to concentrate on challenging the leaders in the first Major of the year, which was won in 2012 by Bubba Watson. The American claimed the biggest victory of his career following a play-off with South African Louis Oosthuizen, but the pre-tournament favourite this year was Tiger Woods.

BBC1

6.00 Live Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix – Qualifying. **8.30 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking.** (R) **12.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **12.15 Football Focus.** **1.00 Formula 1:** The Chinese Grand Prix – Qualifying Replay. **2.15 Golf:** The Masters – Highlights. **3.30 Final Score.** **5.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death.** (R) **5.45 BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
6.00 Doctor Who. The time travellers find themselves on a damaged Russian nuclear submarine in 1933 as it spirals out of control into the ocean depths – but the Doctor is not the only alien present.
6.45 The Voice UK. The third round of the chair-spinning singing contest, with coaches Tom Jones, Jessie J, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue aiming to bolster their teams.
8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
9.10 Casualty. Zoe goes out of her way to help and protect a young girl she believes is at risk, while Fletch deals with a man whose lifestyle is damaging his health.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day; National Lottery Update.
11.35 The Football League Show. **12.55 Film:** Highlander: The Source. (2007) **2.15 Weatherview.** **2.20 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.05 Film:** The First of the Few. (1942) Wartime biopic, directed by and starring Leslie Howard. **9.00 Gardeners' World.** (R) **9.30 The Beechgrove Garden.** (R) **10.00 A History of Britain** by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00 Climbing Great Buildings.** (R) **11.30 Map Man.** (R) **12.00 Indian Food Made Easy.** (R) **12.30 The Sky at Night.** (R) **12.50 Coast.** **1.00 University Challenge.** (R) **1.30 Just a Minute.** (R) **2.00 Film:** I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) Romantic drama, starring Wendy Hiller and Roger Livesey. **3.30 Flog It!** **4.30 The Great British Sewing Bee.** (R) **5.30 The Story of Are You Being Served?** (R)
6.30 Are You Being Served? The staff rally round to keep Captain Peacock's shameful secret from his wife – but his own solution to the problem takes Mr Humphries' breath away. (R)
7.00 Dad's Army. Private Pike receives his call-up papers and unexpectedly passes his medical, much to the horror of his mollycoddling mother. (R)
7.30 Golf: The Masters – Live. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the third day of the year's first Major, held at the Augusta National in Georgia, where Bubba Watson was victorious in 2012. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
12.00 Film: In Dreams. (1999) Thriller, starring Annette Bening. **1.35 This Is BBC Two.** **5.50 Film:** The Story of GI Joe. (1945) A war reporter recounts his experiences of travelling with an American military unit through the Italian campaign. Second World War drama, with Burgess Meredith.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jungle Junction. **6.15 Jungle Junction.** **6.25 The Hive.** (R) **6.35 The Hive.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.55 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.05 Animals.** (R) **7.15 Animals.** (R) **7.25 Bookaboo.** (R) **7.35 Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil.** **7.50 Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil.** **8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man.** **8.25 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **8.40 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **8.55 Figaro Phoe.** (R) **9.00 Jessie.** **9.25 TV News.** **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **10.25 My Tasty Travels** with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.25 Dinner Date.** (R) **12.25 TV News;** Weather. **12.30 Film:** Columbo: Identity Crisis. (1975) **2.30 The Chase.** (R) **3.30 Midsomer Murders.** (R) **5.30 Regional Programme;** Weather. **5.45 TV News;** Weather.
6.00 New You've Been Framed! and **Famous 4.** Harry Hill narrates a fresh selection of comical mishaps filmed by viewers on their webcams, mobile phones and camcorders, featuring a range of celebrity lookalikes.
7.00 Britain's Got Talent. New series. Ant and Dec present the first auditions as performers of all ages try to impress Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden.
8.35 The Cube. Two more contestants take on the challenge. Last in the series.
9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Martin and Gary Kemp and music by Suede.
10.35 ITV News; Weather.
10.50 FA Cup Football Highlights. **11.35 Piers Morgan's Life Stories:** Paul Gascoigne. (R)
12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00 Ladette** to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00 VW Racing Cup.** **7.30 The Grid.** **7.55 The Morning Line.** **8.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.55 Frasier.** (R) **10.25 Frasier.** (R) **10.55 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.50 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.25 Secret Millionaire Ireland.** **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** **4.05 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.35 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.05 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.35 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
6.05 Channel 4 News.
6.30 Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. Homeowners in Muswell Hill, north London, look around one another's flats for improvement ideas and then spruce up their own on a £1,000 budget, hoping to attract buyers.
7.30 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets a couple transforming 5,000sq ft of derelict basement in west London – but without proper architects' drawings confusion kicks in almost from the start. (R)
8.30 Walking Through History. The Tudor heritage of the Weald in Kent and the Downs of East Sussex.
9.30 Film: Get Him to the Greek. (2010) Premiere. A record company employee is given the dubious task of escorting a sex-crazed British rock star to his comeback concert. Comedy, starring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill.
11.35 Darren Brown Investigates: The Man Who Contacts the Dead. (R)
12.40 Film: The Black Dahlia. (2006) **2.45 Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.55 Countdown.** (R) **5.40 Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15 Power Rangers: Super Samurai.** (R) **10.50 Batman: The Brave and the Bold.** **11.15 Monkey Life.** (R) **11.45 Roft's Animal Clinic.** (R) **12.45 Emergency Bikers.** (R) **1.45 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge.** (R) **2.45 Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol.** (1987) **4.25 Film: Rocky III.** (1982)
6.20 Film: The Magnificent Seven Ride! (1972) The one-time leader of the gunslingers assembles a new band of mercenaries to avenge the deaths of his wife and friend. Western sequel, starring Lee Van Cleef.
8.05 5 News Weekend.
8.10 NCIS. Gibbs and his team investigate the bizarre deaths of a Marine and two of his friends, while Ziva tries to rejoin the NCIS. Starring Mark Harmon. (R)
9.10 NCIS. A blogger who accused the NCIS of a cover-up is found dead, and Gibbs and his team are forced to reopen a closed case to find the killer. Starring Mark Harmon and Michael Weatherly. (R)
10.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Benson investigate the death of a 17-year-old girl and discover a suspect in the case may have been deliberately passing on the HIV virus to his many sexual partners.
11.05 Law & Order: Criminal Intent.
12.00 SuperCasino. **4.05 Wildlife SOS.** (R) **4.50 County Secrets.** (R) **5.05 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.15 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.25 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.50 Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **7.15 Merlin** **8.00 Top Gear** **9.00 Film: Enemy of the State** (1998) **11.05 Family Guy** **11.50 American Dad!**
BBC Four
7.00 South Pacific **8.00 David Attenborough's First Life** **9.00 Arne Dahl: The Blind Man – Part Two** **10.30 Young Guns Go for It** **11.40 Synth Britannia** at the BBC
ITV2
3.30 You've Been Framed! **6.00 Film: E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial** (1982) **8.35 Britain's Got More Talent** **9.35 You've Been Framed and Famous!** **10.35 Celebrity Juice** **11.20 Plebs** **11.50 Britain's Got Talent**
ITV3
2.25 Film: To Kill a Mockingbird (1963) **5.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** **7.00 Lewis** **9.00 The Suspicions of Mr Whicher** **11.00 A Is for Acid**
ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. **8.00 River Monsters.** Jeremy Wade tries to find a mysterious predatory creature in the Zambezi river. **9.05 Film: Sudden Death** (1995) **11.20 Film: The Thing** (1982)
E4
5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **7.00 Youngers** **7.30 How I Met Your Mother** **8.30 Broke Girls** **9.00 Film: Black Knight** (2001) **10.55 The Big Bang Theory** **11.55 The Cleveland Show**
Film4
2.20 Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (1984) **4.50 Silent Running** (1971) **6.35 Oblivion Interview Special** **6.40 Planet of the Apes** (1968) **8.50 Oblivion Interview Special** **9.00 Alien** (1979) **11.25 Vanilla Sky** (2001)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 14.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Susie Wolff

Driven: The Fastest Woman in the World BBC2, 5.30pm

We've heard a lot, lately, about gender equality in the workplace. And rightly so – women are just as capable as men, and should certainly have the same opportunities. So why is it that no woman has competed in Formula 1 since 1976? It seems remarkable that, in this area at least, no progress seems to have been made whatsoever. But now, there's a new petrol-headed heroine: Oban-based racing driver Susie Wolff, who is aiming to become the first woman in almost 40 years to start a grand prix.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.00** Live Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix. **10.15** The Big Questions. **11.15** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** Points of View. **12.50** Britain's Maharajah. **1.20** Bargain Hunt. **2.20** Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix Replay. **4.20** Escape to the Country. **(R) 4.30** Coast. **(R) 5.30** Songs of Praise.

6.05 **Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Hyenas, baboons, buffalo and eagles in Africa.

6.35 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryside.** A visit to the eastern county of Suffolk, where Matt Baker finds out about the area's boating heritage, and JLS singer JB Gill seeks advice on farming from Adam Henson. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** A return visit to Cheltenham Town Hall, where objects include a silver fruit bowl damaged in a domestic row and relics of Captain Scott's last expedition to the South Pole. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 **The Village.** As call-up papers are delivered throughout the village, Eyre faces a tribunal for being a conscientious objector, and Grace worries when there is no news of Joe from the front line.

10.00 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2.** **11.25** **Regional Programme.** **11.55** **Film: New Jack City.** (1991) Action thriller, starring Wesley Snipes.

1.30 **Weatherview.** **1.35** **BBC News.**

BBC2

7.40 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **1.50** Coast. **2.00** Great British Food Revival. (R) **2.30** The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart. (R) **3.30** Secrets of Our Living Planet. (R) **4.30** Coast. (R) **5.30** Driven: The Fastest Woman in the World.

6.30 **Golf: The Masters – Live.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final day at the Augusta National in Georgia, where the winner of the first Major of the year will be confirmed. Bubba Watson won the biggest title of his career to date here in 2012, holding his nerve to defeat Louis Oosthuizen in a play-off. Lee Westwood led the British charge, finishing in a share of third place alongside Peter Hanson, Matt Kuchar and Phil Mickelson. Hanson was in the lead heading into the last day, but the Swede fired a 73 that allowed Watson and Oosthuizen to move past him into the top two positions. Commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Wayne Grady and reports from Rishi Persad. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 **Film: The Haunting.** (1999) Three insomniacs are lured to a reputedly haunted house, where they are made to confront their deepest fears. Horror remake, with Liam Neeson, Lili Taylor and Catherine Zeta-Jones. **1.45** Sign Zone: A Very British Wedding. (R) **2.45** Holby City. Malik is presented with a great career opportunity – but it will mean leaving Holby and his son behind. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jungle Junction. **6.15** Jungle Junction. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.20** Bookaboo. (R) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.00** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **8.10** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **8.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.55** Figaro Pho. (R) **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** ITV News. Weather. **11.30** Dinner Date. (R) **12.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.35** Food! Glorious Food. (R) **3.30** Live FA Cup Football.

6.15 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.30 **ITV News:** Weather.

6.45 **Catchphrase.**

7.30 **Off Their Rockers.**

8.00 **Endeavour.** New series. Inspector Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans as a younger version of the detective. Endeavour investigates the death of a respectable GP found in a public lavatory.

10.00 **Perspectives: Paul O'Grady: Gypsy Rose Lee – the Queen of Burlesque.** The presenter explores the life of burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee.

11.00 **ITV News:** Weather.

11.15 **FA Cup Football Highlights.** Chelsea v Manchester City.

12.00 **Premiership Rugby Union.** **12.55** The Store. **2.55** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.45** Monk. (R) **4.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) **6.10** The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** The Hoobs. (R) **7.10** Will & Grace. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.40** Film: The Addams Family. (1991) **3.40** Deal or No Deal. **4.40** Channel 4 News. **5.10** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010)

7.00 **Five Minutes to a Fortune.** Celebrity pairs Jo Brand and Meera Syal, and Rachel Riley and Russell Kane try to complete five-minute challenges in a bid to raise money for charity.

8.00 **The Secret Millions.** Katie Piper works with a charity helping to rehabilitate ex-convicts by employing them to manufacture and market high-end furniture after their release from prison.

9.00 **My Big Fat Gypsy Fortune.** Documentary revealing the secrets of the Traveller economy, showing how those in the community earn their money and fund the extravagant ceremonies seen in Big Fat Gypsy Weddings.

10.00 **Film: Juno.** (2007) A teenager who gets pregnant after a one-night stand with her best friend goes in search of the perfect parents to adopt her baby. Comedy, starring Ellen Page.

11.50 **Film: Cocktail.** (1988) Drama, starring Tom Cruise.

1.40 Southland. (R) **2.20** St Elsewhere. (R) **3.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet. **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.15** Animal Antics. (R) **7.20** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** Mio Mao. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Castle Farm. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.55** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.45** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.15** Disney Shorts: How to Play Football. (R) **11.20** Monkey Life. (R) **11.50** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.50** Film: Practical Magic. (1998) **2.55** Film: The Secret Garden. (1993) **5.00** Film: Stepmom. (1998)

7.15 **5 News Weekend.**

7.20 **Film: Big Daddy.** (1999) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler.

9.00 **Once Upon a Time.** Regina regains her magical powers.

10.00 **Person of Interest.** A National Security Agency analyst learns of the Machine's existence.

11.00 **Film: Ultraviolet.** (2006) Futuristic thriller, starring Milla Jovovich.

12.45 Campus PD. **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.35** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. **8.00** The Voice UK. **9.30** Barely Legal Drivers. **10.30** Family Guy. **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four **7.00** The First Master Chef: Michel Roux on Escoffier. **8.00** The Century That Wrote Itself. **9.00** When Frost Met Bakewell. Joan Bakewell at 80.

10.00 Bakewell at the BBC. **11.00** Motor Racing at the BBC: That Petrol Emotion. **11.30** Imagine: Tom Jones – What Good Am I?

ITV2 **3.40** Britain's Got Talent. **5.15** Britain's Got More Talent. **6.15** Film: Kangaroo Jack. **6.55** Film: That Wrote Itself. Family Special. **9.00** Film: The Shawshank Redemption (1994) **11.50** Celebrity Juice.

ITV3 **3.45** Lewis. **5.50** Inspector Morse. **8.00** Film: Houseguest. (1991)

8.00 Film: Houseguest. (1991) Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin. **10.05** Blue Murder. **11.40** Film: Doc Hollywood. (1991)

ITV4 **11.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kolkata Knight Riders v Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals v Kings XI Punjab. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: The Krays (1990) **11.25** Film: Land of the Dead (2005)

E4 **3.35** How I Met Your Mother. **4.30** Revenge. **5.30** New Girl. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** The Mindy Project. **8.00** Film: Big Momma's House 2 (2006) **10.00** Rude Tube. **11.00** The Body Shocking Show. **11.30** 2 Broke Girls

Film4 **2.50** Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.40** Three Men and a Cradle (1987) **6.40** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **9.00** Crash (2004) **11.10** 12 Rounds (2008)

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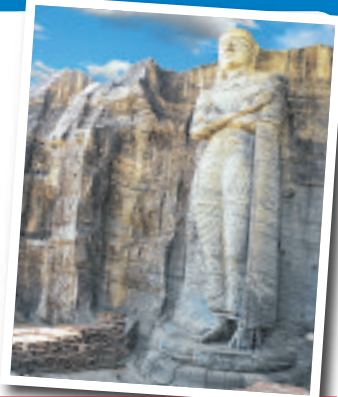
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Film Choices

Monday
Outlaw, Channel 5, 11pm
An Iraq war veteran returns to an increasingly lawless England and discovers thugs have taken over his neighbourhood and his wife is having an affair. Pushed to the edge, he assembles and trains disillusioned men to take matters into their own hands and deal with the criminals who have wronged them. Crime drama, starring Sean Bean, Danny Dyer and Bob Hoskins. (2007)

Tuesday
Like Minds, BBC1, 11.35pm
A prep school student is murdered, and suspicion immediately falls on a classmate who was found standing over the body. A psychologist is brought in to interview the suspect, discovering a strange tale of ancient secret societies and the disturbing bond that developed between the two boys. Crime thriller, starring Toni Collette and Richard Roxburgh. (2006)

Wednesday
Bend It Like Beckham, BBC1, 11.05pm
An English schoolgirl tries to hide her passion for football from her strict Indian parents, knowing they disapprove of her tomboyish love of the game. However, when a semi-professional player sees her in action, she is offered a place on a team, forcing her to come up with a complex plan to keep her sporting career under wraps. Comedy, with Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightley, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Juliet Stevenson. (2002)



Bend It Like Beckham, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

Thursday
Exit Wounds, Channel 5, 10pm
A maverick cop, transferred to a tough new precinct, determines to make a difference to the lawless streets, but he comes to realise his fellow officers are even more corrupt than the local hoods – and are on the verge of completing a major drug deal. Thriller, starring Steven Seagal and Isaiah Washington. (2001)

Friday
Forgetting Sarah Marshall, ITV, 10.35pm
A musician is devastated when his actress girlfriend leaves him, and he tries to cure his broken heart with a holiday in Hawaii. Unfortunately, his efforts to forget the past are scuppered when his ex turns out to be staying at the same resort, with her new boyfriend – a successful rock star – in tow. Romantic comedy, starring Jason Segel, Kristen Bell and Russell Brand. (2008)

Butterfly on a Wheel, BBC1, 11.55pm
A couple expect a ransom demand when their daughter is kidnapped – but the mysterious criminal responsible is not interested in money. Instead, the kidnapper insists they obey his every instruction over the next 24 hours. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2007)

Pick of the Week

The search for a star to light up our lives

Back in the mid-1970s, when Simon Cowell was a teenager with big dreams of fame and fortune, host Derek Hobson welcomed countless acts to the ATV studios for New Faces.

Although the show was a launch pad for the likes of Lenny Henry and Victoria Wood, in retrospect the format was more like *Phoenix Nights* auditions than prime-time Saturday night.

A good idea, but a limited budget, drab set and male-dominated judging panel meant it was in need of glamour and pizzazz. By June 2007 things had changed as Cowell launched his version of the good old-fashioned talent show.

Britain's Got Talent, ITV, Saturday, 7pm not only struck a chord with the masses, it became an annual institution.

That first run aired on consecutive nights on ITV1, with the first five shows featuring the audition stages, held in London, Cardiff, Birmingham and Manchester.

The final four episodes were the live semi-finals and final, with opera singer

Paul Potts emerging as the winner of the public vote.

It was watched by more than 11million viewers, so little wonder ITV bosses were left hungry for more. In the years that followed, we've seen dancer George Sampson, dance troupe Diversity, acrobatic outfit Spelbound, singer Jai McDowall, and dancing dog act Ashleigh and Pudsey all clinch victory, with last year's live final on May 12 attracting 12.5million viewers. Ashleigh and Pudsey also went home half-a-million pounds richer thanks to the highest payout in BGT's history.

Which brings us to this year's contest as recent chart-busters Ant and Dec return for another selection of weird and wonderful acts hoping to launch their careers, get their hands (or paws) on that cash, and perform at the Royal Variety Performance in December.

The latest auditions kicked off on January 7 this year, and now is your first chance to see the good, the bad and the downright dreadful. Of course, as Susan Boyle proved, you don't even need to win the show to become a global sensation.

Runners up Stavros Flatley, Twist & Pulse and Paul Burling proved good value for money on home turf, but the viral appeal of *Su-Bos* I Dreamed A Dream audition not only won a worldwide fanbase, but also helped greenlight an Oscar-winning movie version of *Les Misérables*. Who knows what this year's contestants are capable of achieving?

One woman who's thrilled to be back on the judging panel is Amanda Holden. "I can't wait. It'll be really interesting to see the dynamic and see whether David Walliams will be able to get away with murder like he did last year," she laughs. Along with Messrs McPartlin and Donnelly, Holden is the thread that ties all the series together, honking her way through act after act with THAT laugh, and some often brilliant soundbites, such as her retort to a grumpy Cowell in one episode: "Get back in your cave, Voldemort."

It's anyone's guess what wonders awaits judges Cowell, Holden, Walliams and Alesha Dixon, but given the show's track record, you can bet it'll be bizarre, occasionally moving and a lot of fun.



The judges return in Britain's Got Talent, Saturday, ITV, 7pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Broadcastrich
ITV, 9pm

In recent years, mainstream TV drama has been criticised for dumbing down, for being bland and predictable with little in the way of imagination. But every now and then, a programme comes along that stands out from the crowd thanks to its gripping storyline that keeps viewers guessing right to its final moments – and, we're pleased to say, Broadcastrich is one such series. We're about to see the penultimate edition, and DJ Alec Hardy could certainly use a break as the stresses and strains of finding the culprit continue to take their toll on his fragile health. A vital clue finally turns up that could unlock the mysteries surrounding Danny's death – but who will it implicate?

The Hoarder Next Door
Channel 4, 9pm

It's that time of year again – the dreaded spring clean. If you've been up to your margold cuffs in suds and dusters already, only to despair at the amount you've still got left to do, take the time to watch this new documentary series and remember – it could be a whole lot worse! Here, psychotherapist Stelios Kiosses and his team return to help extreme collectors restore order to their homes. First up is Sarah from Dorset, a single mum whose two-bedroom flat is becoming lost beneath a pile of clutter – a fact which doesn't sit well with her teenage son, Ally. Meanwhile, London bachelor Roddy's five-storey home is brimming with ancient newspapers dating back 30 years. Talk about old news.

Tuesday
The Syndicate
BBC1, 9pm

This week it's the turn of Alan to learn the hard way that money isn't everything. Alan has made bad decisions in his life and the fact that he suddenly has money doesn't stop him from making those decisions," says Mark Addy, who plays him. Alcoholic Alan has been sober since his wife and kids left him, but he falls off the wagon in spectacular fashion after his numbers come up. He also splashes out on a makeover and various luxury items, but realises he'd prefer to have somebody to share his good fortune with.

Royal Paintbox
ITV, 10.35pm

Members of the Royal Family spend much of their home life surrounded by great art. So there's no wonder that a few of them have been inspired by their surroundings to pick up a paintbrush. It's well-known that Prince Charles loves nothing better than dabbling in watercolours while relaxing out of the limelight; it's rather fitting, then, that he will be presenting this one-off documentary which features works by several of his forebears, including Queen Victoria, King George III, Mary Queen of Scots and his own father, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Prince's cousin, Sarah Armstrong Jones, herself a working artist, will also discuss the subject during her first-ever TV interview.

Wednesday
Scott & Bailey
ITV, 9pm

Domestic matters loom large this week. Gill's son Sammy announces his engagement, and although she likes his fiancée, Orla, she can't help worry that at 19, he's rushing into such a commitment. Meanwhile, Sean suspects that Rachel has been unfaithful after taking a call from a mystery man, and Janet persuades Ade to live with his new girlfriend before asking her mother to move in with her. Thankfully, the women have a professional matter to distract them, namely the murder of family man Eddie while his wife was away for the weekend. The prime suspect is his son Daniel, until it becomes clear that Eddie was living a double life that made him vulnerable to exploitation.

Thursday
The Intern
Channel 4, 9pm

It's the eternal Catch-22 of the employment market – you can't get a job because you haven't got the experience, and you can't get the experience because you haven't got a job. Or at least, that's the way it used to be until Hilary Devey decided to shake things up a bit. This week, she's

Scott & Bailey, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

tackling journalism, as 20-year-old Lizzie, 21-year-old John and 27-year-old Dan are given trainee reporter positions on *The Sunday Spot*. The trio have just one week to prove to the editor that they have the drive and tenacity needed to get their names into print and secure a job in one of Britain's most competitive industries.

Friday
The Ice Cream Girls
ITV, 9pm

ITV is more than capable of holding its own where top-notch dramas are concerned. In recent weeks, we've been treated to the superb *Lightfields*, and of course there's the one that everyone's talking about – *Broadcastrich*. And it's by no means going to dent that reputation with this latest effort. Based on Dorothy Kosmos's novel, it follows two women, Serena Gorrington and Poppy Carlisle, who as vulnerable teenagers were accused of murdering their school teacher, Mr Halsley. Seventeen years after that fateful night, Poppy, recently released from prison for the murder, maintains her innocence and is determined to track down her former friend to find out what really happened. Lorraine Burroughs and Jodhi May star.

Alan Carr: Chatty Man
Channel 4, 10pm

This week, fun certainly won't be in short supply – for a start, that's the name of his musical guests. The US band Fun. will be performing their new single *All Alone*. Alan is also joined by comedian Bill Bailey, who will be talking about his latest stand-up tour, the intriguingly named *Quailpeddler*.

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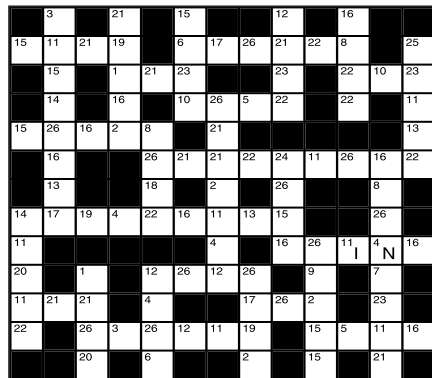
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What's On!

Brain Gym

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

M	P	J	T	E	B	X	K	G	C	R	V	H
S	I	L	U	W	D	Y	N	A	Z	F	Q	O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

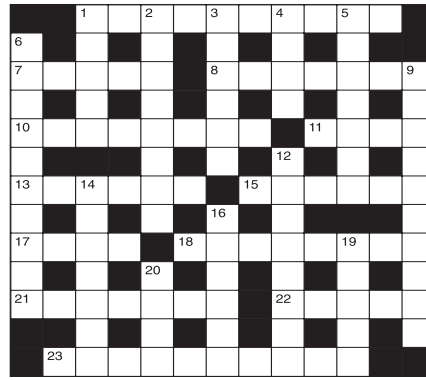
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Alec shot it, perhaps. Not a friendly deed! (7,3)
7. It counts as a hazard for rambles (5)
8. Wild at having it turned into foreign currency (7)
10. A count will confirm it (5-3)
11. Long period return to a district (4)
13. Describes a sailor given a mission (6)
15. A practical lesson to be drawn, but not concerned with ethics (6)
17. Drop and damage (4)
18. Give one time for transgression (8)
21. A target, maybe, for yachtsmen (7)
22. Vassal for example caught in falsehood (5)
23. A wife is apparently preferable to nothing at all (6,4)

Down

1. If you have a complaint you may resort to this (5)
2. Imposing corporal punishment (8)
3. Pouring in, in a state of change (6)
4. Made up cheese (4)
5. He may bring food from the terrace (7)
6. Teacher after a job as a slave - driver (10)
9. A daring aspirant to sporting fame (10)
12. It's always used up when needed (8)
14. It helps an artiste to perform brilliantly (7)
16. I'm not one to weaken (6)
19. It's bound to contain stalks (5)
20. It will be in bad taste to let it stand (4)



Quick Clues:

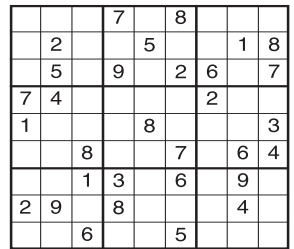
Across

1. Likeness (10)
7. Plain (5)
8. Prop (7)
10. Foreman (8)
11. Signify (4)
15. Mourning (6)
17. Dry (4)
18. Sledge (8)
21. Walked warily (7)
22. Wrong (5)
23. Component (10)

Down

1. Sift (5)
2. Crack shot (8)
3. Reduce (6)
4. Kind (4)
5. Bishopric (7)
6. Book-keeper (10)
9. Compassion (10)
12. Claim unduly (8)
14. Shoemaker's saint (7)
16. Squalid (6)
19. Sinfulness (5)
20. Rain heavily (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	9	5	1	2	8	6	7	4
4	6	1	5	9	7	8	2	3
2	8	7	4	6	3	5	1	9
6	5	3	2	1	9	7	4	8
1	2	8	7	5	4	3	9	6
7	4	9	3	6	2	5	1	8
8	7	2	8	3	1	9	6	2
9	3	2	6	4	5	1	8	7
8	1	6	9	7	2	4	3	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Turn out; 7 Droll; 9 Dip; 10 Henrietta; 12 First person; 15 Take your bow; 17 Sprinkle; 19 End; 21 Itchy; 22 Replete. Down: 1 Cupid; 2 One; 3 Mule; 4 Green room; 5 Glutton; 8 Proper; 11 Lighthouse; 13 Stocks; 14 Carpets; 16 Unity; 18 Even; 20 All. QUICK - Across: 6 Proceed; 7 Corps; 9 Use; 10 Annulment; 12 Speculation; 15 Preliminary; 17 Dangerous; 19 New; 21 Loose; 22 Agitate. Down: 1 Dress; 2 Act; 3 Mean; 4 Dormitory; 5 Opinion; 8 Sullen; 11 Apologies; 13 Camera; 14 Creator; 16 Petty; 18 Urge; 20 Sty.

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AN EXTENDED detached home in Willenhall is on the market based on offers in the region of £235,000.

The property comes with central heating and double glazing with accommodation briefly comprising of entrance hall, lounge, extended family room/breakfast kitchen, four bedrooms – the master with refitted corner spa – and additional shower room.

It is situated at the head of a small cul-de-sac in a quiet location and overlooking public open space to the front.

On the ground floor the lounge, 14ft 1in by 13ft 5in, has a feature exposed brickwork chimney breast with quarry tiled hearth and real flame effect gas fire and door into the dining room/family kitchen measuring 29ft 6in by 9ft 9in.

Kitchen

The kitchen area has a range of base units, granite work surfaces with one and a half bowl single drainer stainless steel sink, built-in microwave, integrated dishwasher and washing machine, space for Range-master cooker and American style fridge freezer, central island unit with granite work surface and space for breakfast stools.

On the first floor the master bedroom has walk-in wardrobes with a door to an en-suite with white suite comprising Jacuzzi corner spa bath, pedestal wash hand basin and WC and there are three more bedrooms and a shower room with white suite of cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

There is also a single car internal garage, while outside to the front is a block paved driveway providing ample off road parking and lawn with borders, and to the rear a patio, lawn, garden shed and greenhouse.

Call Marrion and Co on 01922 404446.



Brickwork chimney breast with tiled hearth is a feature in the lounge of this property



The modern dining room/family kitchen, measuring 29ft 6in by 9ft 9in, at the house

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REDUCED



**Cherry Tree Avenue
Walsall**

- A Much Improved and Extended Semi Detached Family Home
- Occupying a Corner Location and Offering the benefit of early completion and no onward chain
- Enclosed Storm Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Extended/Refitted Kitchen, Three Excellent Bedrooms
- Partly Tiled Shower Room/WC
- Large Garage with Ample Parking for a Boat/Caravan

£148,950

REDUCED



**Darvel Road
Willenhall**

- A most impressively presented and much improved modern Link Detached House
- Gas centrally heated, PVCu double glazed, Most worthy of internal viewing
- Entrance Hall/Stairs, Open Plan Lounge, Dining Room and Re-fitted Kitchen, Utility Area,
- Three Bedrooms, Partly Tiled Bathroom/WC, Garage/Store, Large Driveway, Landscaped Rear Garden

£144,950

REDUCED



**Eastbourne Street, The Butts
Walsall**

- A Deceptively Spacious and Improved Victorian Semi-Detached House
- Situated Close to Walsall Arboretum and Town Centre Amenities
- Gas Central Heating and PVCu Double Glazed
- Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Two Reception Rooms
- Large Cellar, Re-fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Three Good sized Bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC, Enclosed Gardens and Outbuildings/WC

OIRO £160,000

REDUCED



**High Road
Willenhall**

- A deceptively spacious detached family home
- Gas central Heating, PVCu double glazing, Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs
- Front Lounge, Interconnecting Dining Room, Large Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Area, Guest Cloaks/WC, Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- The Master Having an En-suite Shower Room/WC, Family Bathroom/WC
- Integral Garage, Block Paved Forecourt, Enclosed Lawned Rear Garden

£170,000

REDUCED



**Kiniths Crescent
West Bromwich**

- An extended & much improved traditionally styled semi detached house
- No onward chain, Gas centrally heated, PVCu double glazed, Recessed Porch
- Entrance Hall/Stairs, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Extended Breakfast Room/Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC, Parking and Gardens

£134,950

REDUCED



**Dursley Close
Willenhall**

- Extended greatly to the ground floor, deceptively spacious modern detached house
- Gas centrally heated & PVCu double glazed, Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs
- Lounge/Dining Room, Extended Sitting Room/Playroom, Re-fitted Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom/WC, Garage and Excellent Decor Throughout

£145,000

REDUCED



**Westbourne Road
Butts, Walsall**

- A fully modernised late Victorian End Terrace House
- PVCu double glazing and gas central heating
- PVCu Storm Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Guests Cloaks/WC, Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Refitted Kitchen, Third Reception Room or Study, Four Excellent Bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC, Off Road Parking, Attractive Gardens

Offers in the region of: £185,000

REDUCED



**Manor House Close
Walsall**

- Three good sized bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- 'Walton Homes' built town house
- Ensuite shower room to master bedroom
- Good sized easy maintenance garden

Offers in the region of £139,950

REDUCED



**Reedly Road
Willenhall**

- An extended and much improved modern Semi Detached House
- Gas Centrally Heated and PVCu Double Glazed
- Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Front Lounge, Rear Dining Kitchen (Re-fitted)
- Extended Family Room, Three Bedrooms, Re-fitted bathroom/WC
- Tandem Length Carport, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden

£145,000

REDUCED



**Meranti Close, New Invention
Willenhall**

- An Immaculately and much Extended Detached Family Home
- Four Excellent Bedrooms, Master with Re-Fitted Corner Jacuzzi Bathroom/WC
- Gas Central Heating and PVCu Double Glazed
- Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Front Lounge, Large Extended Family Room/ Breakfast Kitchen
- Additional Shower Room/WC, Large Garage, Blocked Paved Driveway Parking for Several Vehicles

£235,000

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Lot 1 33 Fountain Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 38 21 Pritchard Close, Smethwick, Warley	Residential Vacant	Lot 70 57 Lyndon Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 2 Selly Oak Centre, 646-648 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 39 Garages on the South West Side of Westhouse Grove off Brandwood Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Garages	Lot 71 73 Lyndon Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 3 65 Thornthwaite Close, Rednal, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 40 207 Aldershaw Road, South Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 72 164 Bridge Street West, Newtown, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 4 9 Chiswell Road, Winslow Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 41 18-19 Worcester Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Investment	Lot 73 28 Giebe Farm Road, Stechford, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 5 49 Claypit Lane, West Bromwich	Residential Vacant	Lot 42 7 Marley Heights, Colwall Walk, Acocks Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 74 24 Hay Green Lane, Bournville, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 6 Land Forming Site of 1A/1B Duke Street, West Bromwich	Land	Lot 43 242 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 75 1 Little Park, Quinton, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 7 Land off Nicholls Road, Tipton	Land	Lot 44 1 Albion Cottages, Birmingham Road, Water Orton	Residential Vacant	Lot 76 39 North Street, Dudley	Residential Investment
Lot 8 Land off Nicholls Road, Opposite Princes End Industrial Park, Tipton	Land	Lot 45 20 Ellesmere Road & 41 Wood Street, Shrewsbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 77 Regent Road, Hanley, Stoke on Trent	Commercial Vacant
Lot 9 257 Glastonbury Crescent, Mossley, Bloxwich	Residential Vacant	Lot 46 22 Henwood Road, Compton, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 78 42 Dolphin Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 10 Yr Hen Siop Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 47 42 Nova Croft, Coventry	Residential Vacant	Lot 79 59 Coleshill Street, Fazeley, Tamworth	Residential Vacant
Lot 11 Golchdy Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 48 3 Berrington Road, Leamington Spa	Commercial Vacant	Lot 80 39 Alexander Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 12 Bungalow 1 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 49 50 Harman Road, Wyde Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 81 10 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 13 Bungalow 2 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 50 28 Regent Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 82 16 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 14 Bungalow 3 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 51 58 Hospital Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 83 51 Gallery Square, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 15 Bungalow 4 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 52 110 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 84 57 Gallery Square, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 16 Bungalow 5 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 53 Land to the rear of 9 Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth, Shropshire	Land	Lot 85 17 Tyber Drive, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 17 Bungalow 6 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 54 862 Pershore Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 86 31 Hampton Court Road, Harborne, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 18 Bungalow 7 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 55 98 Stafford Street, Walsall	Commercial Vacant	Lot 87 7 Dunstall Lane, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 19 Bungalow 8 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 56 164 Rutland Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant	Lot 88 Former Garage Court Adj. 44 Surrey Crescent, West Bromwich	Land
Lot 20 Bungalow 9 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 57 126-126A Lea Village, Kitts Green, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 89 224 Norton Lane, Earlswood, Solihull	Residential Vacant
Lot 21 Bungalow 10 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 58 Flat 9, 3 Colton Square, Leicester	Residential Investment	Lot 90 49 Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant
Lot 22 Chalet M Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 59 Flat 21, 3 Colton Square, Leicester	Residential Investment	Lot 91 209 Antrobus Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 23 Chalet 62 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey	Residential Vacant	Lot 60 Flat 25, 3 Colton Square, Leicester	Residential Investment	Lot 92 Methodist Church Premises, 54 St Michaels Road Pitshill, Stoke on Trent	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 24 Unit A Great Hampton Street, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 61 Former Garage Site Church Green, Bilston, Wolverhampton	Land	Lot 93 Garage Site off James Watt Street, West Bromwich	Garages
Lot 25 71 Dogpool Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 62 Land at Hospital Lane (Rear of 59b Mason Street) Colesey	Land	Lot 94 127 Bushby Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 26 32 St Agnes Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 63 Unit 134 Middlemore Industrial Estate, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 95 122 Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 27 76 Hubert Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 64 28 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 96 15 Ash Road, Saltley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 28 86 & 86A High Street, West Bromwich	Commercial Investment	Lot 65 62 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 97 20 Stockton Court, Mason Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment
Lot 29 20 Daniels Road, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 66 53 Park Road, Woodsetton, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 98 1 Hodson Avenue, Willenhall	Residential Vacant
Lot 30 715-726 Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton	Commercial Investment	Lot 67 Unit 23 The Business Centre, James Road, Tyseley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 99 122 Oldknow Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 31 11 Barnett Road, Willenhall	Residential Vacant	Lot 68 83 Wheatley Close, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield	Residential Vacant	Lot 100 21 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich Residential	Vacant
Lot 32 177 Acheson Road, Shirley, Solihull	Residential Vacant	Lot 69 98 Solihull Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 101 Flat 2, 36 Wordsworth Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 33 2 Compton Court, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield	Residential Vacant			Lot 102 41 Brierley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich	Residential Investment
Lot 34 59 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove	Residential Vacant			Lot 103 30 Twickenham Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 35 61 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove	Residential Vacant				
Lot 36 9 Long Lane, Blackheath, West Midlands	Commercial Investment				
Lot 37 127 Abingdon Road, Perry Common, Birmingham	Residential Vacant				



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WILLENHALL
LEVESON STREET

Reduced

- Traditional style spacious and terraced
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen with gas cooker
- Lounge and dining room
- Energy Rating 'D'

£395 PCM

WILLENHALL
KEATS ROAD

Reduced

- First floor two bed apartment
- Large through lounge
- Kitchen with cooker
- Bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Energy Rating 'C'
- Available immediately

£350 PCM

WILLENHALL
RAVENSCROFT ROAD

Reduced

- Spacious detached property
- Considerable improvements
- Three bedrooms & loft room
- Extended dining kitchen
- Gas C/H/heating & D/Glazing
- Bathroom with jacuzzi style bath
- Garden, garage & off road parking
- Energy Rating 'D'

£725 PCM

WOLVERHAMPTON
LAUREN GATE, W'ALL ROAD

Reduced

- Modern purpose built maisonette
- Spacious accommodation over two floors
- Two double bedrooms
- Family bathroom & ensuite
- Kitchen
- Gated allocated parking
- Energy rating 'C'

£550 PCM

WEDNESBURY
DEVON ROAD

Reduced

- Semi detached house
- Popular location
- Spacious lounge
- Fitted kitchen with some appliances
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom with separate WC
- Centrally heated
- Energy Performance Rating E

£495 PCM

WILLENHALL
HOPWOOD LOCK COURT

NEW

- Beautifully presented ground floor apartment
- One bedroom
- Superbly appointed throughout
- Gas central heating
- Bathroom with shower
- Energy Efficiency Rating 'C'

£425 PCM

WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD

NEW

- Modern style mid terr house
- Three bedrooms
- C/H central heating & D/Glazing
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Fitted bathroom with bath & shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking
- Energy Rating 'D'

£575 PCM

BLOXWICH
FIELD ROAD

NEW

- Pleasant victorian style terraced property
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Gas C/H/heating & D/Glazing
- Energy rating 'F'

£525 PCM

TENANTS!

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Home of Property



This two-bedroom Wednesbury property is on the market with Connells for £117,500. The agent describes the semi-detached home as "stunning"

Two-bed semi-detached home is priced £117,500

DESCRIBED by agents as "stunning", this two bedroom semi-detached house in William Green Road, Wednesbury, is for sale priced at £117,500.

The property benefits from uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (where specified)

with accommodation briefly comprising of porch entrance, through lounge, kitchen and refitted bathroom.

On the ground floor the lounge, 20ft 9in by 10ft 3in, has sliding patio doors to the rear while the kitchen - 11ft by 7ft 10in - has wall and base units with roll top work surfaces, round bowl stainless steel sink and drainer, integrated oven and hob, plumbing for automatic washing machine and

space for domestic appliances, with a dining area with doors to the rear garden and garage.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with shower cubicle, wash hand basin and WC.

Outside to the front is a driveway with off road parking, and there is also a rear garden. Contact Connells on 0121 556 2338.

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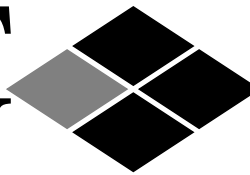


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AUCTION VIEWING TIMES

ADDRESS	Wednesday 10th April	Saturday 13th April
114 Coppice Road, Rugeley	10.00 am	10.00 am
106 Walsall Road, Cannock	10.45 am	10.45 am
8 Sunset Close, Great Wyrley	11.15 am	11.15 am
13 Jacobs Hall Lane, Great Wyrley	11.45 am	11.45 am
200 Churchill Road, Bentley	12.45 pm	12.45 pm
162 Marsh Lane, Wolverhampton	1.45 pm	1.45 pm

Land adjoining Topeka, Holly Lane, Cheslyn Hay **By calling on site with catalogue to hand**

Flats 1 & 2, 10 Cross Street, Bridgtown, Cannock
Land to rear of 91 Old Fallow Road, Cannock
Edward Street Club, Edward Street, West Chadsmoor
By appointment via Auctioneers Offices

NOTE: All viewings undertaken at prospective purchasers own risk. Neither the Agents or the vendors can accept any risk for any injury caused whilst viewing at any property whether or not the property is occupied or unoccupied.

When viewing properties please take care when parking so as not to inconvenience adjoining owners and road users.

All measurements given are approximate and for guidance purposes only. Successful purchasers will be required to provide proof of identity and address.

LOT 1 GUIDE PRICE: £65,000-£75,000



106 WALSALL ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi-detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Part gas fired central heating
- ◆ In need of renovation/improvement

LOT 2 GUIDE PRICE: £80,000-£85,000



162 MARSH LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Inter war semi-detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of modernisation

LOT 3 GUIDE PRICE: £80,000



FLATS 1 & 2, 10 CROSS STREET, BRIDGTOWN
FREEHOLD INVESTMENT

- ◆ Two - one bedroomed flats
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed
- ◆ Currently let producing \$8,820 per annum

LOT 4 GUIDE PRICE: £50,000-£60,000



200 CHURCHILL ROAD, BENTLEY, WALSALL
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ In need of comprehensive refurbishment

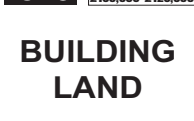
LOT 5 GUIDE PRICE: £90,000-£100,000



8 SUNSET CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Linked detached bungalow
- ◆ In need of some improvement
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed

LOT 6 GUIDE PRICE: £100,000-£120,000



BUILDING LAND
LAND TO REAR OF: 91 OLD FALLOW ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Residential building land with the benefit of planning permission for residential development for two detached residences with private drive access
- ◆ Located in popular residential area
- ◆ Width on building line - 22m approx.
- ◆ Depth of main plot - 32m approx. (average approx.)
- ◆ Area - 915 m.sq (1068 yds sq.) or thereabouts

LOT 7 GUIDE PRICE: £50,000



114 COPPICE ROAD, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Inner terraced house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Front and rear gardens
- ◆ Requiring refurbishment

LOT 8 GUIDE PRICE: £125,000



EDWARD STREET CLUB, EDWARD STREET, CHADSMOOR
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Substantial brick built premises standing on a large corner plot. Suitable for:
- ◆ Investment
- ◆ Re-development opportunity
- ◆ Owner occupation
- ◆ Total site area - 0.392 acre or thereabouts

LOT 9 GUIDE PRICE: £100,000



INDIVIDUAL BUILDING PLOT ADJOINING TOPEKA, HOLLY LANE, CHESLYN HAY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Individual building plot with outline planning permission for residential development
- ◆ Located in popular residential area
- ◆ Width - 12m (approx.) on building line
- ◆ Depth - 47m (approx.) maximum

LOT 10 GUIDE PRICE: £90,000-£100,000



13 JACOBS HALL LANE, GREAT WYRLEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi-detached house
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of modernisation



RICS

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MANAGER'S CHOICE



**COPPICE FARM
GRAZEWOOD CLOSE**

- Extended modern style detached • Three large double bedrooms
- Lounge • Refitted dining kitchen • Family bathroom
- Double glazing • Gas central heating • Garage & driveway
- Utility • Rear garden • Energy Rating 'C'

£162,950

FEATURED PROPERTY



**WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD**

- Superb Modern detached residence
- Four bedrooms
- Two receptions • Breakfast kitchen • Gas CH • Double glazing
- 2 en-suites • Bathroom • Garden • Garage • Energy 'D'

£250,000

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



**BENTLEY, WALSALL
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD WEST**

- Individually designed detached bungalow
- Three excellent bedrooms • Lounge & dining kitchen
- Part double glazing • Gas central heating • 40ft garage
- No chain • Viewing recommended
- Energy Rating 'D'

£250,000

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151



**ESSINGTON
ROWAN DRIVE**

- Four bedroom extended modern detached residence
- UPVC double glazed conservatory • Two receptions
- En-suite shower room • Substantial garage/outbuilding
- Well equipped dining kitchen for even 8, bath
- Enclosed low maintenance garden • Energy Rating 'D'

NOW £299,950



**COPPICE FARM
BUTTERNERE GROVE**

- Superb extended five bedroom modern detached property
- Two reception rooms • Office/occasional bed &
- Conservatory • Breakfast kitchen • En-suite shower room
- Excellent fitted bathroom • Energy Rating 'C'

WAS £289,950, NOW £279,950 OFFERS



**SHORT HEATH
POOLES LANE**

- Brand new 4 bedroom modern detached residence
- Lounge/dining room • Conservatory
- Well appointed breakfast kitchen • Bathroom & en-suite
- Gas central heating • UPVC double glazing
- Garage and driveway • PART EXCHANGE AVAILABLE

£209,950



**SHORT HEATH
HUNTS LANE**

- Superb detached property
- 3 bedrooms • Energy 'C'
- Spacious lounge • Dining kitchen
- Luxury bathroom
- Shower room • Double Glaz, Gas CH • Driveway, Garden

£169,950



**NEW INVENTION
CRAB LANE**

- Dormer Link detached bungalow
- Two / Three Bedrooms
- Energy 'F' • Two receptions
- Bathrooms • Gas CH
- Double glazing • 30ft side garage • Rear Garden

£159,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**NEW INVENTION
BALMORAL DRIVE**

- Pleasant three bedroom semi detached
- Energy 'D'
- Gas CH • Majority double glazing • Rear garden
- Lounge/dining room • Refitted kitchen
- Store room

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £125,000



**NEW INVENTION
MOXHULL CLOSE**

- Well presented and terraced property
- Three bedrooms • Lounge • Spacious dining kitchen
- Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Bathroom • Rear garden and summer house/playroom
- Energy Rating 'D'

£122,950



**WILLENHALL
SHERLOCK CLOSE**

- Pleasant and town house
- 2 bedrooms, Gas c/heating
- UPVC d/glazed windows
- Conservatory, Fitted kitchen
- Rear lounge, Guest wc, Rear garden, Energy Rating 'D'

£113,000 OFFERS



**WILLENHALL
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Superb Coach House apartment
- 2 bedrooms, Gas c/heating
- UPVC d/glazed windows
- Conservatory, Fitted kitchen
- Rear lounge, Guest wc, Rear garden, Energy Rating 'D'

£110,500 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
BARMOUTH CLOSE**

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas CH • Double Glazing
- Two receptions • Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom • Front and rear gardens • Energy 'D'

Offers In Excess Of £110,000



**WILLENHALL
HILL ROAD**

- Much improved extended three bedroom property
- Lounge and extended dining room • Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower • Garage and block paved driveway
- Gas central heating • UPVC double glazed windows
- Viewing recommended • Energy Rating 'E'

NOW £105,000



**PORTOBELLO
EVANS STREET**

- Traditional Style Semi Detached • Three Bedrooms
- Lounge • Refitted Dining Kitchen • Refitted Bathroom
- Large Rear Garden • Driveway • No Chain
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Energy Rating 18C

£105,000



**HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL
FAWLEY CLOSE**

- Pleasant improved modern style semi
- Two bedrooms
- Gas c/heating • Lounge • Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Large • Attractive enclosed rear garden • Energy 'C'

£103,000



**WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- Excellent modern style semi
- Planning permission granted for side extension
- Two bedrooms • UPVC double glazed windows
- Fitted bathroom with shower • Pleasant 13ft front lounge
- Enclosed rear garden • Energy Rating 'D'

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £96,000



**WILLENHALL
HALEY STREET**

- Traditional style and terraced property
- Three bedrooms • Lounge • Refitted dining kitchen
- Ground floor shower room • En-suite wc
- Utility • Part d/glazing • Part gas c/heating
- Driveway • Rear garden • Energy Rating 'D'

£90,000



**WILLENHALL
LISTER STREET**

- Three bedroom and terraced property • Energy 'D'
- D/Clazing • Gas c/heating
- Two receptions
- Upstairs bathroom • Ground flr Bathroom
- Pleasant garden

Was £94,950, NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
ARGYLL COURT, ESSINGTON ROAD**

- Well presented ground floor apartment
- Lounge • Fitted kitchen • Double bedroom
- Bathroom • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Allocated parking space • No Chain
- Energy Rating 18C

£70,000



**DARLASTON
PINFOLD STREET**

- One bed ground floor flat in convenient location
- Lounge • No Chain
- Kitchen • Shower Room
- Communal gardens & parking
- Gas CH • Double Glazing • Energy Rating 'D'

£59,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL

- Modern style and town house • Two bedrooms • Lounge
- Dining Kitchen • Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Good size rear garden • Driveway to the fore • Energy 'C'

£125,000

BENTLEY, WALSALL

- Extended semi detached • 3 Bedrooms • Energy 'D'
- Gas CH • Sun room • Double Glaz • Spacious lounge
- Breakfast kitchen/utility • Shower room • Rear garden

£110,000 OFFERS

WILLENHALL

- Period End Terrace • 2 Receptions • Energy 'E'
- Kitchen & utility • Two bedrooms, one with attic area
- Bathroom • Rear garden • Double glazing, Gas CH

NOW £85,000 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL

- Extended traditional semi detached • 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom • Extended lounge • Dining room • Energy 'C'
- Kitchen • Double glazing • Gas CH • Rear garden • Drive

£125,000

NEW INVENTION

- Pleasant one bedroom semi • Two Receptions
- Fitted kitchen • Pleasant Rear garden • Off road parking
- Gas central heating • Double Glazing • Energy Rating 'D'

£87,950 OFFERS

WILLENHALL

- Spacious end terrace • Two bedrooms • Gas c/heating
- Two reception rooms • Fitted kitchen & wc, Bathroom
- Rear parking and garden • Part Double Glaz • Energy 'C'

OFFERS OVER £80,000

BENTLEY

- Extended semi detached property • Four Bedrooms
- Lounge • Downstairs wc • Part Double Glazing, Kitchen
- Rear Garden • Gas central heating • Energy Rating 'D'

£125,000

WILLENHALL

- Superb Ground floor apartment • Two bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/kitchen • Bathroom, Parking Space
- Double glazing • Central heating • Energy Rating 'C'

£87,500 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL

- Ground floor flat in popular location • Over 55's
- Lounge, Kitchen • One bedroom • Bathroom
- Double glaz, storage heating • No Chain • Energy E

£49,950 for 70% shared ownership

If you're thinking of selling or are on the market and having no interest, call Skitts Estate Agents for a Free, No Obligation Market Appraisal of your home on 01902 631151

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Willenhall SKITTS

ESTATE AGENTS

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willenhall@skitts.net

NEW INSTRUCTION OF THE WEEK



Coppice Farm
Nevis Grove

- Impressive Detached Property • Lounge & Dining Room
- Conservatory • Spacious Breakfast Kitchen • Guests WC
- Four Bedrooms • En-Suite • Re-Fitted Family Bathroom
- Garage & Driveway • Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating • Energy Rating TBC

£205,000

FEATURED PROPERTY



SUMMER HAYES
COLLIERS CLOSE

- Impressive extended much improved detached bungalow
- Lounge and dining room • Superb orangery/sitting room
- Refitted kitchen • Four bedrooms • Garage & driveway
- Pleasant rear garden • Gas central heating & double glazing
- Family bathroom • Luxury en-suite shower room • Energy Rating 'D'

Offers over £199,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



Hadley Heath
Hawkswell Drive

- Extended Modern Style Semi Detached • Rear Gardens
- Lounge • Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bedroom • Wet Room
- Two Further Bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy Rating TBC
- Gas Central Heating • Part Double Glazing • Driveway

£124,995

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151

NEW

Essington
Larchmere Drive

- Modern Style Detached Family Residence • Popular Location
- Lounge • Dining Room • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Gas C/H • Double Glazing • Garage • Driveway
- Rear Gardens • Energy Rating 'D'

£229,950

NEW

Essington
Upper Sneyd Road

- Much Improved Modern Style Detached Property • No Chain
- Lounge • Superb Spacious Dining Kitchen • Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas C/Heating • Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden • Energy Rating 'D'

£185,000

NEW

Summer Hayes
Stirling Crescent

- Extended Semi Detached Bungalow • No Chain
- Spacious Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen • 2 Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Garage & Driveway • Rear Gardens • Energy Rating 'E'
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System

£150,000

NEW

Portobello
Burford Close (Off Millichip Road)

- Newly Built Detached Bungalow • Brand New Development
- Lounge • Breakfast Kitchen
- Two / Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Gas C/H • Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking • Gardens • Energy Rating TBC

£129,995

NEW

Willenhall
Poplar Avenue

- Improved Wall Presented Mid Town House
- 3 Bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy rating TBC
- Through Lounge / Dining Room • Kitchen
- Ground W/C • Double Glazing
- Driveway • Rear gardens

£99,950

NEW

New Invention
Rugley Avenue

- Well Presented Mid Town House • Popular Location
- Spacious Lounge with Dining Area • Energy rating TBC
- Re-Fitted Kitchen • Lobby / Utility / WC
- Two Excellent Double Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens • Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating

£95,000

CONSERVATORY

WILLENHALL
PRINCETHORPE ROAD

- Modern well maintained detached property
- Three bedrooms • En-suite shower room • Family bathroom
- Spacious lounge • Dining room • Fitted kitchen • Conservatory
- Garage • Driveway • Enclosed gardens
- Gas central heating • Double glazing • Energy rating 'C'

£199,950

REDUCED

WILLENHALL
BENTLEY LANE

- Superb well appointed five bedroom detached family residence
- Spacious lounge, dining room • Impressive breakfast kitchen
- Utility & guest WC • En-suite shower room • Family shower room
- Family bathroom • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Pleasant rear garden, driveway • Energy Rating 'D'

WAS £192,500, NOW £185,000

CONSERVATORY

COPPICE FARM
KINGFISHER GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms, en-suite shower room • Lounge & dining rooms
- UPVC double glazed conservatory • Fitted kitchen & utility rooms
- Refitted bathroom with shower • Enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating • Double glazed windows • Energy rating 'D'

£179,950

REDUCED

WILLENHALL
HIGH ROAD

- Spacious Four Bed Detached
- Lounge & dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen • En-suite
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows • Driveway • Energy 'C'

Offers Over £170,000

REDUCED

NEW INVENTION (OFF SNEYD LANE)
HEATH ROAD

- Spacious detached property • Popular location
- Three bedrooms • Large established garden
- Off lounge • Dining room • Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom • Garage and ample parking
- Gas central heating • Double glazing • Energy rating 'C'

£174,500

NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
BILSTON ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Gas C/heating, glazing • Lounge • Dining room
- Refitted kitchen • 4 bedrooms
- Potential to extend to rear (subject to planning)
- Off road parking • Energy Rating 'E'

WAS £175,000 NOW £169,950

NO CHAIN

NEW INVENTION
CRAB LANE

- Dornier Link detached bungalow
- Two / Three Bedrooms
- Energy 'F' • Two reception
- Bathrooms • Gas C/H
- Double glazing • 30ft side garage • Rear Garden

£159,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN

NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
OVERDALE DRIVE

- Spacious detached bungalow • Popular location
- Large through lounge/dining room • Kitchen
- Two bedrooms • Bathroom
- Front & rear gardens • Garage, drive & carport
- No chain • Energy rating 'D'

£155,000

REDUCED

NEW INVENTION
ESSINGTON ROAD

- Brand new development of two detached bungalows
- Popular Location • Energy rating TBC
- Two bedrooms
- Fitted bathroom
- Rear garden

£159,950

REDUCED

WILLENHALL
HILLCREST GARDENS

- Much improved extended modern style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms • Lounge & dining room • Extended refitted kitchen
- Luxury shower room • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Garage & carport • Rear garden
- Energy Rating 'D'

£140,000

NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
ALBION STREET

- Superb and spacious
- Spacious lounge • Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Garage, driveway • Viewing recommended • Energy 'C'

£134,995 NO CHAIN

WANTED
MR & MRS H ARE LOOKING FOR A THREE BEDROOM SEMI OR DETACHED IN ESSINGTON UP TO £180,000 CALL NIKKI

WANTED
MRS O WOULD LIKE A TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW ON LYNDALE ESTATE UP TO £140,000 CALL NIKKI

WANTED
MR/MRS K ARE LOOKING FOR A 3/4 BEDROOM PROPERTY ON COPPICE FARM OR HONEYBOURNE WAY UP TO £200,000 CALL RACHEL

WANTED
MRS D IS LOOKING FOR A 3 BED PROPERTY ON SNEYD PARK UP TO £160,000, CALL RACHEL

WANTED
MR C WANTS A 3 BEDROOM PROPERTY IN THE WOODLANDS ESTATE AREA UP TO £130,000 CALL NIKKI

WANTED
2 BEDROOM PROPERTIES ON COPPICE FARM UP TO £130,000 CALL NIKKI

WANTED
3 BEDROOM PROPERTIES ON HADLEY HEATH UP TO £130,000 CALL NIKKI

WANTED
MRS W WANTS A THREE BED BEDROOM SEMI IN BENTLEY UP TO £135,000 CALL RACHEL

WANTED
TWO BED FLATS REQUIRED IN WILLENHALL UP TO £90,000 CALL RACHEL

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 RYDAL CLOSE, WEDNESFIELD Well Presented One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Hallway/Utility, Dining Area, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Modern Fitted Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden. £69,995	 DEVON ROAD, WILLENHALL Spacious First Floor Two Bedroom Flat Comprising Of Lounge, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Central Heating, Communal Garden And Secure Parking. £74,995	 REMINGTON ROAD, BEECHDALE Spacious Three Bed Mid-Town House, Two Reception, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Separate WC, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden Having Vehicle Access. Ideal Buy To Let Or First Time Buy! £79,950 ONO	 RECENT ST, WILLENHALL Well Presented Two Bed End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Cul-De-Sac Location. IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. £84,995	 WINDSOR WALK, DARLSTON Two Bed End Town House Located On The Popular Victoria Mews Development Having: Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Sunroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Gas C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Off Road Parking. £84,995	 WESTERN AVE, BENTLEY Spacious Mid Town House Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Sunroom, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Majority UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Ideal FTB. £91,995	 SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment In This Popular Location, Lounge/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking, Must View! £89,995	 ORCHARD RD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Cottage Style Two Bed Mid Terrace Having Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Master Bedroom With Fitted Furniture, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Large Rear Garden. Cul-De-Sac Location. Must View. £92,995
 COLTHAM RD, SHORT HEATH Fully Refurbished Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Spacious Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing & Gas C/Heating. £96,995	 GRIFFITHS DR, ASHMORE Recently Refurbished Two Bed Semi Having, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Generous Rear Garden With Vehicle Access. £102,500	 HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL Modern Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Allocated Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden. £103,995	 RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Semi, Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Breakfast Bar, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Sought After Location. £104,995	 CHATSWORTH CLOSE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Detached Garage, Driveway, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. £109,995	 ST CHADS ROAD, BILSTON Extended Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining/Utility Area, Wet Room, C/Heating, Majority D/Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front And Rear Gardens. Ideal Investment. NO CHAIN. £112,500	 CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed End Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking. £124,995	 BALMORAL DR, NEW INVENTION Spacious Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/Diner With Patio Doors Into Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Three Generous Bedrooms, Additional Loft Room, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Crete Print Driveway, NO CHAIN. £124,995
 OAK ROAD, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner/Sitting Room, Family Bathroom, Part Double Glazing, Central Heating, Garage And Off Road Parking. Sought After Location. NO CHAIN. £124,995	 FARBROOK WAY, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi On The Popular Summer Hayes Estate Having Entrance Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, Majority UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway. £129,995	 PEACH ROAD, WILLENHALL Immaculate Two Bed Semi, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Family Bathroom, Integral Garage, UPVC Double Glazing, Central Heating, Front And Rear Garden Must View! Canal Access. £132,000	 WILLENHALL STREET, DARLSTON Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility Area, W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage. £134,995	 SWEET BRIAR LANE, WILLENHALL Well Presented Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway. £139,995	 ALBION RD, W-HALL Large Victorian End Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Four Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway. £149,950	 COPPICE LANE, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Semi Having Entrance Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility, Groundfloor W.C., Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage & Driveway. MUST VIEW. £150,000	 JAMES STREET, WILLENHALL Four Bed Detached Property Having Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Groundfloor W.C., Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Tandem Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Sought After Location. £184,995

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KENILWORTH CRESCENT, WALSALL
 Well Presented Three Bed Semi, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Conservatory, Master Bedroom With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Front And Rear Gardens.
£120,000

BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL
 Modern Refurbished Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Stylish Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Landscaped Garden. MUST VIEW.
£124,995

PINENEEDLE CROFT, WILLENHALL
 Immaculately Presented Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room, Garage, UPVC D/Glazing & Block Paved Driveway.
£144,995

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**7 Queens Parade
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Walsall
WS3 2EX
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**Sheffield
Green Lane**
● Four Double Bedrooms
● Two En-Suites●Conservatory
● Guest W.C.●Loft Room●Garage
● Clay Block paved Driveway & Patio Area
● Family bathroom●Close to Sheffield

In the Region of £239,950



**Bloxwich
Lichfield Road**
● Extended Four/Five Bed Semi-Detached
● Three Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Attic Bedroom●Integral Garage
● Off Road Parking

£235,000



**Bloxwich
Field Road**
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Fully Re-Furbished●Two Reception Rooms
● Re-Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory
● Utility Room●W.C.●Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden●Garages & Workshop

In the Region of £199,000



**Willenhall
Crab Lane**
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached
● Through Lounge/Diner●Kitchen
● Ground Floor Shower Room
● First Floor Shower Room●Utility Room
● Garage & Off Road Parking●Gardens

Offers in excess of £175,000



**Bloxwich
Selsdon Road**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Kitchen●Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Garage & Off Road Parking

In the Region of £169,995



**Bloxwich
Broad Lane**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Entrance Porch●Two Reception Rooms
● Downstairs W.C.●Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom●Immaculately Presented

£169,950



**Bloxwich
Wolverhampton Road**
● Four Bedroom Detached
● Large Lounge
● Breakfast Kitchen
● Dining Room
● Rear Lobby/Utility

Offers in excess of £166,000



**Willenhall
Pattenham Close**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●En-Suite
● Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Allocated Parking

In the Region of £149,950



**Bloxwich
Goscole Lane**
● Extended Three Bedroom Detached
● Two Reception Rooms●Breakfast Room
● Kitchen with Pantry/Larder
● Study●Bathroom●Gardens
● Garage & Ample Off Road Parking

In the Region of £149,950



**Walsall
Leamore Lane**
● Three Bedroom Town House
● Kitchen/Diner●Study●Cloakroom W.C.
● First Floor Lounge●Family Bathroom
● En-Suite Shower Room●Gardens
● Detached Garage

In the Region of 145,000



**Bloxwich
Harrison Street**
● OPEN DAY SAT 13TH OF APRIL 2013
11AM -1PM PLEASE CALL 01922 711444
● Victorian Three Bed End-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms●Bathroom
● Fitted Kitchen●Utility●Cellar

In the Region of £137,500



**Walsall
Tenbury Close**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Shower Room
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Rear Landscaped Garden
● Front Garden & Off Road Parking

£137,500



**Willenhall
John Riley Drive**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge●Family Bathroom
● Fitted Kitchen
● D.Glazing & Gas Heating●Driveway
● Integral Garage●Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £136,995



**Walsall
Segundo Road**
● Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Kitchen●Utility Room●Lounge
● Storage Room●Bathroom
● Gardens●Off Road Parking

£135,000



**Bloxwich
Well Lane**
● Three Bedroom Detached
● Lounge/Diner
● Family Bathroom with separate W.C.
● Integral Garage●Front & Rear Gardens
● Large Driveway

Offers in excess of £130,000



**Walsall
Smiths Flour Mill**
● Two Bedroom Apartment
● Lounge●Integrated Kitchen
● Electric Heating & Double Glazing
● Allocated Parking
● Family Bathroom

Offers in excess of £125,000



**Willenhall
Balmoral Drive**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Through Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Garage & Off Road Parking

In the Region of £125,000



**Bloxwich
Grantown Grove**
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● New Fitted Kitchen
● Lounge●Fitted Bathroom
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces
● Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £116,950



**Willenhall
Squires Grove**
● Two Bedroom Coach House Apartment
● Large Lounge/Dining Room
● Fitted Kitchen with Breakfast Bar
● Converted Garage●Allocated Parking
● D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £110,500



**Bloxwich
Harden Road**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen●Diner●Guest W.C.
● Newly Fitted Bathroom with
● D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Front & Rear Gardens●NO UPWARD

In the Region of £104,950



**Bloxwich
Beatrice Street**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Front Lounge●Rear Sitting Room
● Breakfast Room●Study●Fitted Kitchen
● Bathroom●D.Glazing/ Central Heating
● Gardens with Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £99,950



**Rushall
Stanier Close**
● Ideal for First Time Buyer
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Fitted Kitchen●Lounge/Diner
● Bathroom●D.Glazing & Electric Heating
● Gardens●Allocated Parking Spaces

£99,950



**Walsall
Spring Court**
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
● Lounge-Shower Room
● Fitted Kitchen
● Private Parking
● Shared Gardens- Garage

£95,000



**Bloxwich
Margaret Crescent**
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Diner with Patio Doors
● Family Bathroom shower over bath
● Front & Rear Gardens●Central Heating
● Double Glazing

In the Region of £95,000



**Walsall
Dartmouth Close**
● Two Bedroom End-Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
● Downstairs W.C./Utility●D.Glazing
● Side Veranda/Sun Room
● Gas Central Heating●No Upward Chain

Offers in excess of £90,000



**Bloxwich
Harrison Street**
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen●Ground Floor Bathroom
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
● Cellar●Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in excess of £90,000



**Walsall
Hadley Way**
● Three Bedroom End-Terrace
● Large Dining Room●Lounge
● Fitted Kitchen●Utility Room●Study
● Family Bathroom●Gardens
● Detached Garage to the Rear

Offers in excess of £90,000



**Bloxwich
Mossley Lane**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
● Rear Porch●Bathroom
● Separate W.C.●Off Road Parking
● Large Corner plot with Garage

In the Region of £89,950



**Willenhall
Taverners Close**
● One Bedroom House
● Two Reception Rooms●Lounge
● Dining/Sun Room●Double Bedroom
● Bathroom with Shower●Enclosed Rear Garden

In the Region of £87,950



**Bloxwich
Bagnall Street**
● Three Bedroom Terrace
● Lounge●Kitchen●Diner with W.C.
● Bathroom●Conservatory
● Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway

In the Region of £85,000



**Bloxwich
Pershore Road**
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
● Lounge●Dining Room
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Double Glazed●Central Heating
● Rear Garden●Off Road Parking

In the Region of £84,950



**Walsall
Cairns Street**
● Two Bed Refurbished Property
● Through Lounge
● Fitted Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £80,000



**Bloxwich
Booth Street**
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
● Lounge●Kitchen
● Cloakroom W.C.●Shower Room
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking

offers in excess of £80,000



**Walsall
Cairns Street**
● Two Bedroom Terrace
● Being Refurbished throughout
● Kitchen●Family Bathroom
● Double Glazing● Gas Central Heating
● Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £80,000



**Willenhall
Argyll Court, Essington Road**
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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Likely to be Rapid family favourite

By Bob Hickman

THERE must be tens of thousands of car buyers who, when looking for a vehicle to fill their needs, simply want something that is safe and reasonably sturdy, with no frills, that gets them from A to B – and looks reasonable.

At one point I used to steer those people towards the Korean marketplace but now Skoda produces vehicles that are extremely well made, very reliable, somewhat stylish, value for money and engineered brilliantly thanks to their Volkswagen pedigree.

Arriving on the scene now is the Skoda Rapid, a small family car. Skoda have pitched it between the much smaller Fabia and the much larger Octavia.

You may be surprised to find that whilst it looks like a saloon, it is actually a five-door hatchback. The rear section lifts to reveal a huge amount of boot space.

It looks OK, but it is nothing to get excited about. You could easily lose it on a car park, so it doesn't stand out from the crowd, but it does exactly what you want from a vehicle.

The new Rapid comes with a choice of four petrol engines, my particular test derivative



The interior of the new Skoda Rapid has a no-frills look but is practical

was the 1.2-litre 86PS with a five-speed manual gearbox. Skoda suggests 55.4mpg is possible on the combined cycle, I managed to achieve mid to high 40s. The CO2 emissions are quoted as 119g/km, so low excise duties will feature, free in the first year of ownership and a mere £30 afterwards. It has a top speed of 114mph and the 0-60mph can be achieved in marginally under 12 seconds.

There is also a 1.6-litre turbo diesel variant available with a 105PS. The driving dynamics of the vehicle were at all times of a solid, sensi-

ble reassuring car. I found the brakes needed a little extra pressure to bring it to a stop but it never once gave me cause for concern. I could live with the plastics and the switchgear although it isn't as refined as some.

The seating was very comfortable and there was adequate head/shoulder room for front and rear passengers.

I like the fact that Skoda has equipped the Rapid with little features like the under-front-seat storage. A clever feature in the boot is a reversible floor, you can choose between a



The new Skoda Rapid has a three-trim line-up – S, SE and Elegance. Prices from £12,900

carpet or a rubber boot lining. So if you have a muddy football kit or dirty footwear, you can choose the rubber effect, or you just want to cosset your other items, use the carpet. In addition, there is a hook in the boot that allows you to hang the bag from the supermarket on.

The Rapid, as you would expect in 2013, is an extremely safe vehicle. It has a plethora of airbags. The Skoda Rapid is available in a three-trim option, entry level S, middle range SE which was my test vehicle and the top specification Elegance. The SE came equipped with

15in alloy wheels, body-coloured exterior mirrors and door handles and tinted glass. The vehicle also benefits from front fog lamps, a decent six-speaker sound system and the facility to connect the telephone by virtue of a Bluetooth. The range starts at £12,900 for the 1.2-litre 75PS Rapid S derivative and rises to £18,100 for the 1.6-litre TDi Elegance. Skoda's warranty package is worth looking at, it automatically covers three years or 60,000 miles and also includes a 12-year body protection warranty.

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Smaller Merc proved the cynics were just wrong

By Iain Dooley

IN the four-door coupe market, Mercedes has form. When it was launched, the original CLS prompted much head-scratching from the press and was dismissed by many as little more than a glamorous sideshow. Oh, how wrong they were.

For buyers seeking E-Class levels of road presence but wanting something more eye-catching than a traditional saloon, the CLS delivered in spades and was bought in droves. So, how do you expand the appeal of something like the CLS? Simple, you build a smaller one and call it the CLA.

Seeking to cause the same disruption in the compact executive saloon market, the CLA's aim is to add some much-needed glamour and, crucially, encourage younger buyers to embrace what's often viewed as an older person's brand.

Key to the CLA's appeal is that it doesn't look like a conventional Mercedes. Displaying similar design cues as the latest generation A-Class at the front and a pleasingly shapely rear, the car's appearance blends visual appeal with the ability to slice through the air more efficiently than your average small saloon – Mercedes has the numbers to prove it, too.

Rakish looks and the CLA's coupe-like profile aside, the car is different mechanically from your average Mercedes C-Class in that it's front-wheel drive.

This bucking of the premium market trend continues with power coming exclusively from four-cylinder engines – petrol and diesel – including a four-wheel drive AMG version.

UK buyers initially get a choice of a 1.6-litre 122-horsepower petrol motor badged as CLA 180 and a 2.1-litre 170-horsepower CLA 220 CDI diesel unit. Launch specification is a six-speed manual transmission for the former and seven-speed direct-shift automatic for the latter.

The CLA is a two-trim range – Sport and AMG Sport – boasting comfort and sport suspension set-ups respectively. The reality is a car that, despite being a fraction longer than a C-Class, feels surprisingly compact on the road.

Comfortably

The largely A-Class-influenced cabin fascia works well, especially the generously dimensioned central colour display and familiar switchgear, and there's enough room up front for two adults to sit comfortably. In the back, it's not quite the compromise you might first think.

Granted, headroom is modest for all the obvious reasons, but there's enough legroom for adults if the journey is short, yet there's plenty of space for a small but growing family. Space isn't an issue in the boot – all 470 litres of it – and there's the double bonus of folding rear seats.

Funky looks and reassuringly high levels of real-world practicality notwithstanding, the car's also got to drive well.

In front-drive guise, the CLA delivers a solid performance on a wide variety of road surfaces. The difference between comfort and sport set-ups is noticeable, although it's good to know that the latter doesn't disgrace itself on poorly surfaced urban roads.

The lack of pitch and roll when travelling at speed plus above-average levels of cabin refinement can be credited to the car's well-sorted chassis and class-leading aerodynamics respectively.

And in diesel guise, a choice likely to be popular with company car drivers, the combination of low noise and ample pulling power help cement the CLA's engaging driver-focused appeal.

For the UK, Mercedes is pitching the CLA as a youthful alternative to conventional compact executive models.

As such, there's a predictable sporty theme extending past the car's model names; 18in wheels are the default size for both trim levels along with sports front seats and a chunky three-spoke steering wheel.

The icing on the cake is the car's polished road manners, which do much to banish any idea that it's a car that's abandoned substance for style.



The Mercedes CLA offers a choice of 1.6-litre petrol or 2.1-litre diesel engines



The largely A-Class-influenced cabin fascia works well on the CLA

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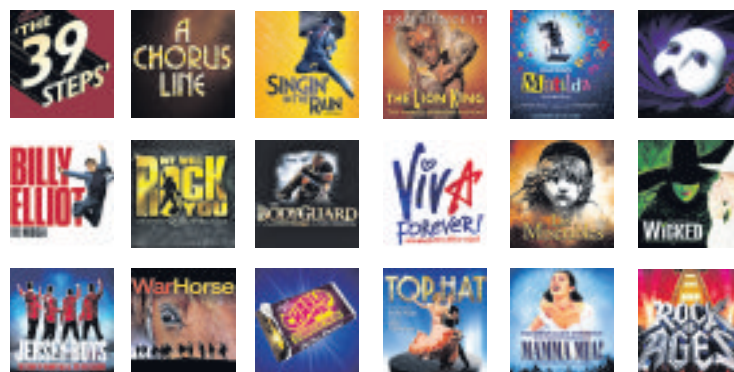
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WALSALL NORTH CONSERVATIVES

Walsall North Conservatives are to hold an open primary selection meeting which will determine who will be their candidate at the next general election. Everyone who is registered to vote in the constituency, irrespective of which political party they support, or vote for, may attend and vote providing they pre-register.

The meeting will be held at the Amery Unionist Club in Willenhall on Thursday 18 April 2013.

In order to attend and vote at the open primary meeting, residents will need to pre-register either by calling or texting 07598 489043, by e-mailing office@walsallconservatives.org.uk or by postal application to Walsall Conservatives, 62 Portland Road, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8NS. It will also be possible to register directly on the website www.walsallconservatives.org.uk. The deadline for receipt of registration applications is Wednesday 17 April 2013.

SHIRE OAK ACADEMY ADMISSION NUMBER FROM SEPTEMBER 2014/2015 YEAR 7

Published Admission Number = 238
Enhanced Resource Facility = 2 places per year
In line with Education Walsall's development proposals for special educational needs, the governors at the academy agreed to an additionally resourced provision being maintained within the school. The additional resources are deployed so that the needs of up to ten children in total who have specialised learning needs (including dyslexia) can be met. Governors are proposing to maintain these numbers as opposed to the Net Capacity Number of 255 as assessed under the relevant guidance (DfES/0739/2001/REV).
They base their decision on the following factors:
a) Ensuring all students are taught in set sizes where they can achieve to the full and where physical and human resources can be effectively deployed.
b) Maintaining average class sizes in Year 7 to 11 to allow our special needs policy regarding class sizes to be maintained.
c) Their health and safety responsibility continuing to be carried out to the benefit of all students and other personnel on site.
d) Honouring previous commitments to parents, particularly in respect of students facing academic and physical challenges in providing specialist teaching set sizes to enable them to capitalise upon their full potential. The above proposal was determined at a meeting of the full Governing Body on 27th March, 2013. Any parent may raise an objection to Governors proposing to determine an admission number which is lower than the Indicated Admission number shown in the academy's new Net Capacity Assessment Form.
If you object to raise any objections you must contact the Schools Adjudicator by 30th June. However, the Schools Adjudicator has discretion to consider late objections.
Office of the Schools Adjudicator
Mowden Hall, Station Road, Darlington, DL3 9BG
Notice dated: 1st April, 2013
Note: The school's admission criteria for 2014/2015 are available to view on the school's website: www.shireoakacademy.co.uk

LICENSING ACT 2003 I, RAMANDEEP KAUR OF WHETSTONE CONVENIENCE 145 - 147 WHETSTONE LANE ALDRIDGE WALSALL WS9 0EZ

Herby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely For the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, namely
MON - SAT 08:00 - 21:00
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Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to, LICENSING UNIT WALSALL M.B.C CHALLENGE BUILDING HATHEOTON ROAD WALSALL WS1 1YG not later than 30TH APRIL 2013. (licensing@walsall.gov.uk) A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
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SHIRE OAK ACADEMY ADMISSION NUMBER FROM SEPTEMBER 2014/2015 YEAR 7

Published Admission Number = 238
Enhanced Resource Facility = 2 places per year
In line with Education Walsall's development proposals for special educational needs, the governors at the academy agreed to an additionally resourced provision being maintained within the school. The additional resources are deployed so that the needs of up to ten children in total who have specialised learning needs (including dyslexia) can be met. Governors are proposing to maintain these numbers as opposed to the Net Capacity Number of 255 as assessed under the relevant guidance (DfES/0739/2001/REV).
They base their decision on the following factors:
a) Ensuring all students are taught in set sizes where they can achieve to the full and where physical and human resources can be effectively deployed.
b) Maintaining average class sizes in Year 7 to 11 to allow our special needs policy regarding class sizes to be maintained.
c) Their health and safety responsibility continuing to be carried out to the benefit of all students and other personnel on site.
d) Honouring previous commitments to parents, particularly in respect of students facing academic and physical challenges in providing specialist teaching set sizes to enable them to capitalise upon their full potential. The above proposal was determined at a meeting of the full Governing Body on 27th March, 2013. Any parent may raise an objection to Governors proposing to determine an admission number which is lower than the Indicated Admission number shown in the academy's new Net Capacity Assessment Form.
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Office of the Schools Adjudicator
Mowden Hall, Station Road, Darlington, DL3 9BG
Notice dated: 1st April, 2013
Note: The school's admission criteria for 2014/2015 are available to view on the school's website: www.shireoakacademy.co.uk

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Pics point priceless in play-off place hunt

Rushall Olympic 0 Ashton Utd 0
A BATTLING display earned another priceless point for Rushall Olympic in the race for a Northern Premier Division play-off place against an Ashton United side that defended their excellent away record. Rushall started brightly and created a half-chance in the 12th minute when Wayne Daniel headed wide from a Grant Beckett corner. Paul Phillips tipped over a shot from Rushall's Lee Downes and the resulting corner led to a Daniel header being cleared off the line by Danny Lambert.

Matty Kosylo's through ball early in the second found Aaron Burns, and his deflected daisy-cutter whistled inches past Pies' Chris Gemmell's near post. The home side wasted a golden chance to take the lead, as Lambert headed against his own post from Kyle Haynes cross and somehow the ball deflected off Ahmed Obeng into the side netting.

Obeng was denied again by an excellent Lambert block on 65 minutes.

Rushall always looked the more likely to win and pressure led to Downes shooting wide with six minutes left before Ashton's skipper was red-carded for his second bookable offence, a foul on Craddock.

Rushall Olympic: Gemmell, K Haynes, Beckett, Tolley, Daniel, Carnick, Downes, Craddock, Walker, Obeng (Dovey 87), Stephens (Islam 56). **Subs not used:** J Haynes, Landell, Spille. **Ashton United:** Phillips, Lambert, Harrop, Moore, Robinson, Frost, Kosylo (Murty 65), Burke, Burns (Baqley 56), Barlow, Amadi. **Subs not used:** Smith, Sherriff, Riley.

Eight finally go through

Rushall Olympic U11 2 Brewood Hawks Juniors U11 2
(Rushall won 2-1 on penalties) SHORT-HANDED Rushall played this Steve Richards Cup tie with eight men, sweeper Kyer Russell going in goal and doing well.

Extra-time, with the teams locked at 2-2, brought no further goals and the match went to penalties. Lucas Fallon put on the gloves and made two smart stops before netting the decisive spot-kick himself.

Reagan Palethorpe was the other Rushall player to be successful from the spot. Palethorpe and Reece Nunne had got the Rushall goals.

Disappointing days after impressive form

Rugby union

Whitchurch 35 Walsall 17
IT has been a disappointing few days rugby for Walsall after some impressive results recently.

A midweek defeat by Lichfield in the Staffs cup semi-final and yet another fruitless visit to Shropshire in Midlands One West rather halted the team's successful run.

The only valid excuse that can be offered was the absence of five regular players in their line-up.

They started well enough at Whitchurch with Matt Wood kicking an early penalty.

However, two needless infringements saw the hosts go 6-3 up after

Nicholas put over two kicks. Walsall made a good response and created an overlap for a certain try. An interception and an 80-metre try scoring run by Thornton gave the hosts the initiative.

Walsall continued to press with Benson and Dickson making good ground before Wood switched the direction of attack.

The Walsall fly-half found Chris Mould in support and he delivered a neat inside pass to Josh Hickman. The young winger cut through from 20m to score his first try for the Walsall first team.

Early in the second half Walsall

took the lead when flanker Jamie Hickman burst away from a ruck and galloped on a lung bursting fifty meter run for the touchdown.

Wood added the conversion to establish a 17-13 lead with 30 minutes remaining.

But their already diminishing player strength was weakened even further as all of their replacements had to be used to cover for injuries early in the second half.

The fact that two forwards had to move into the back division was

a further cause of concern for the visiting coaches and supporters.

Whitchurch, to their credit, took full advantage and scored three further tries through Cope, Bates-Smith and Skone.

Walsall have their final home game of the season this Saturday. Relegation threatened Bakers Butts are the visitors to Delves Road. The game kicks off at 3pm.

The demands of the first team meant that the United were forced to field a rather young and inexperienced team against the league leaders Dudley Kingswinford. They deserve a great deal of credit

as they held DK for most of the game. Several late scores eventually secured them a 48-19 victory. There were two tries for Andy Fitzgerald and one for Phil Stanley. Rob Angell also kicked three penalties.

The thirds had a fine 43-7 win over Old Vesyans seconds. Tries were scored by Bickley, Pitt, Minton(2), Stanley, Macdonald and Gary Dudley. Connor Pitt also kicked four conversions.

Walsall Colts are involved in this year's Fred Rowley Memorial Tournament, which began on Tuesday and continues tonight.

Must-win match is delivered with style

Aldridge 48 Whittington 0
THIS was a must-win game of rugby for Aldridge, with an outside chance of promotion from Midlands Five West (North), and they duly delivered.

They made a cracking start as forwards gained control and the stream of possession was used to such devastating effect that the game was done and dusted by the interval.

Determined ball carrying off the back row and speedy and accurate offloading gave the visitors no time to settle.

Aldridge posted seven tries and three conversions to lead 41-0 at the break. It looked as if it was going to be a long afternoon for the visitors, but Aldridge's momentum stalled at the break and Whittington regrouped.

They had more of the territory in the second half and on several occasions pressured the Aldridge line.

The home side had taken their foot off the gas and began to lose composure, but their defence still remained sound and the line intact.

They posted the only score of the second half midway through when winger Jacob Holding fly-hacked from halfway and beat the cover.

Patched-up side debuts are pleasing

Market Drayton 5 Bloxwich 2
BLOXWICH men's hockey first took a patched-up side to unbeaten West Midlands One winners Market Drayton for their last game of the season.

With seven first-teamers missing, Bloxwich turned to a mixture of second and third-team players to plug the gaps.

Bloxwich started well with Nathan Langley's pace and energy causing Drayton a lot of problems.

But the home side scored twice on the counter before Steve Mazurek hit back with a penalty flick before the break.

The champions were more determined in the second period and stretched their advantage to 4-1 before Bloxwich skipper Adam Baldwin, returning from injury, found the net.

Drayton added a fifth goal, but Bloxwich will be pleased with the first team debuts of Nathan Langley and Nathan Booker.

Saddlers' hopes of glory remain intact

Walsall 1 Sheffield Utd 1

WALSALL'S big birthday bash could yet end with a bang.

But the Saddlers' hopes of marking a significant milestone with something truly special now hang in the balance after an afternoon of festivities and frustration, writes **Steve Madeley**.

A draw against Sheffield United on the 125th anniversary of the club's formation did not kill hopes of gatecrashing the League One play-offs as they extended their remarkable unbeaten run to 13 games.

But a scruffy second-half equaliser from Blades substitute Chris Porter had Smith and Co lamenting two dropped points from another fine performance.

It left them in little doubt that, with three games to go in a season few fans will forget in a hurry, they have no margin for error if they are to claim an unlikely top-six finish.

Chance

Three more displays like Saturday's would give Walsall a real chance of maximum points and put them in the mix for a play-off spot.

Should they reach that, Saddlers can only hope their rivals have wasted enough of their games in hand to do them a favour.

They can take real heart from the latest display. For more than an hour of an engaging contest, they left one of League One's genuine big-hitters chasing shadows with a performance of passing, movement and energy that encapsulated the footballing philosophy Dean Smith has implemented.

That they played so well for so long only enhanced the feeling of anti-climax at ending the day without maximum points.

There were times during their dark mid-season winless spell that Walsall's fans would have rejoiced at a share of the spoils against a Blades side who went so long unbeaten at the beginning of the campaign.

And a point was still no mean feat against a United outfit who, for all their creative



A narrow squeak for Walsall, but keeper Sam Johnstone keeps his goal intact

deficiencies on a pitch that they never got to grips with, proved resolute and disciplined against waves of home attacks.

Yet in the context of their recent fortunes and their up-on-the-rails challenge for a play-off berth, it felt like a huge opportunity had gone begging for Smith's men.

If only Febian Brandy could have matched his fabulous pace and trickery with some cool finishing, the hosts would have been out of reach long before the Blades claimed their equaliser just after the hour mark.

Instead, they found themselves with only Craig Westcarr's 44th-minute strike to protect when the visitors finally woke from their attacking slumbers.

And Porter's close-range strike that came with the assistance of both posts meant on-loan keeper Sam Johnstone had to pick the

ball out of his net for the first time in four games with the Saddlers.

Things had looked so good for Smith when his side made all the early running, with Jamie Paterson' long-range effort flying just over before the same player saw a shot deflected behind.

Brandy – a constant menace to the visitors – went close just before the break with a cross-shot that just missed. But Westcarr struck just two minutes later, collecting a Baxendale pass and spinning to score.

A Jamie Murphy run snuffed out by Andy Taylor was the only moment of alarm for the Saddlers.

Brandy's big moment arrived just three minutes after the restart when he collected a James Baxendale pass and found himself in the clear, only to send a tame shot wide.



Andy Taylor competes with Jamie Murphy

And he had another near miss later on when keeper George Long saved an effort he should not have been allowed to get near.

But between those moments, the Blades struck their unlikely equaliser as substitute left-back Mal Benning gave Kevin McDonald too much room to shoot.

Johnstone touched the effort superbly onto one post but watched in horror as it struck the other and fell for Porter to score.

By the time the final whistle blew to leave Saddlers shoulders hunched, the sense of desperation among the home crowd was palpable as they sensed a fabulous chance to end a landmark day in celebratory mood.

But where there's life, there's hope.

And playing as they did at the weekend, Saddlers fans should not rule out an extra special party in a momentous year.

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SPORT

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Saddlers are held
by the Blades
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Point for Pics
Rushall closing in
on the play-offs
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Darlow look doomed as Wulfs take win

Darlaston 0 AFC Wulfs 3
STRUGGLING Darlaston fell as West Midlands Premier title-chasers AFC Wulfs extended their winning streak to 12 games.

Kyle Brady netted two and Tom Piggott one in a game which saw Darlaston's two penalty shouts in the first five minutes met with yellow cards for simulation.

Darlaston's one first-half chance saw Ryan Bradshaw, hold off two defenders but his shot didn't trouble keeper Danny Tipton.

Brady gave Wulfrunians the lead 10 minutes before the break and their lead doubled a minute into the second half as Brady's ball into the six-yard box fell for Piggott to volley home.

Brady continued to play a significant role in the game; he tested the keeper with an effort from just outside the area before laying off to Jordan Perks who volleyed just wide from 25 yards.

Darlaston's Bradshaw rounded Tipton but, from a tight angle, struck the post.

Eighteen minutes into the half Brady's attempted cross caught the keeper off-guard and ended up looping over him and into the top corner.

Wulfs' joint manager Jon Purdie, the ex-Wolves defender, made a rare substitute appearance replacing Nathan Rose-Laing.

Wulfs are four points behind leaders Lye with a game in hand over their top of the table rivals. Darlaston look doomed in second-from bottom spot with 10 points.

New appeal on materials

RUSHALL Cricket Club have renewed their appeal for building materials.

They are taking part in NatWest CricketForce, where work is done on facilities, and will stage their day at Carter Park on Saturday.

They want white paint, tin roofing sheets, cement mix, sand and gravel.

For more information on CricketForce 2013, visit the scheme's website at www.ecb.co.uk/development/facilities-funding/self-build-and-self-help/natwest-cricket-effort

Rushall are also looking for a new tea person, either an individual or local catering company.

For more information, call Paul Hopkinson on 07976 621825 or email rushallcricket@gmail.com



Tae Kwon Do members, from left, Elliott Martin, Asma Kouser, Tim Sheward and chief instructor Jason Rowley

Club's championship success

WALSALL Tae Kwon Do Club are boasting success at the South Midlands Championships held in Hereford.

Asma Kouser entered three events, winning her patterns division to put her in the ladies grand champion division where she narrowly missed out.

Kouser also claimed bronze in the ladies blue/red belt middleweights for individual sparring and made up one third of the ladies blue/red tag team to be crowned tag team champions.

Tim Sheward took two golds, winning individual and tag team sparring divisions in the cadet yellow/green

Tae Kwon Do

point stop division. Chief instructor Jason Rowley won gold in the men's black belt heavyweight sparring division and Elliott Martin narrowly missed out in the men's red/black belt division.

Instructor Emily-Jane Arms said: "2013 has started positively at the club and we are hoping to continue our success with the upcoming world championships this July. We are now introducing Tae Kwon Do to a new gen-

eration of young budding martial artists with our new 'Tigers' class designed for five-to-nine-year-olds."

The new class is on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6.15-7pm, at St Mary's The Mount Church, Glebe Street.

On the same evenings, juniors and adults practice from 7-8pm for beginners and intermediates while 8-9pm sees the advanced session.

The first session is free for new members. More details are available on the website www.walsall-tae-kwon-do-club.co.uk or call 07976 158381 or e-mail jason.rowley@hotmail.co.uk

Lockmen look over shoulders

Willenhall Tn 0 Dudley Tn 3
WILLENHALL are looking over their shoulders as they fight to avoid a third successive relegation.

The Robins took the lead after just six minutes of this West Midlands Premier match when, after initiating the move, Brett McGilligan rounded it off with a powerful shot that beat former Dudley keeper Matt Rodgers.

It was 2-0 just seven minutes later; a low pinpoint cross found Tom Gadd who rounded Luke Guy and crafted a shot that left Rodgers helpless.

Willenhall's task got tougher when midfielder Martin Hill was perhaps unfortunate to see red following a challenge on Dudley's Ross Love.

The Lockmen dug in but the second half was all one-way traffic.

Dudley's third goal was beautifully taken by Geoff Hill in the 77th minute.

Ahmet strike is the winner

Nuneaton Griff 0 Walsall W 1
WOOD took all three Midland Combination points with leading scorer Ahmet Bilginer scoring the only goal on 64 minutes.

They started well with Corey Curritthers firing high and wide and Bilginer's low drive being saved by keeper Dave Watson.

Wood's goal came as Taylor Boyce found Bilginer, who rolled his marker and fired into the right-hand corner.

On 87 minutes Bilginer was fouled and Jamie Hawkins fired the free-kick around the wall for Watson to make a full-length save.

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DUO ARE URGED TO IGNORE KO THREAT

WALSALL boss Dean Smith has urged Febian Brandy and Andy Butler to ignore their potential season-ending KOs.

The pair are one booking away from a two-match ban after collecting nine yellow cards this term and must tread a disciplinary tightrope at Scunthorpe on Saturday.

There is a cut-off on Sunday and if both escape a booking at Glanford Park they are safe from suspension – unless they are red-carded in the final two games.

But with eighth-placed Saddlers two points off the League One play-offs with three games left, Smith doesn't want them to compromise their style.

He said: "They just have to go out and play their normal games. For Febian that's to go out and score goals and create things for others and for Andy Butler it's to keep defending how he's been defending."

"People get bookings throughout a season and some of those Febian has taken this season have been innocuous considering some of the kickings he's taken."

Frustrating

"It's part and parcel of the game, but it's frustrating that the referee gave 'Butts' an innocuous yellow card on Saturday. The reaction of their player suggested he wasn't touched and there wasn't much indication from Febian that the lad touched him either."

They were both booked in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Sheffield United.

Smith admitted that Walsall need to win their final three games – trips to Scunthorpe and Crewe and the visit of Bury – to gate-crash the top six after four draws in the last five games.

They are still unbeaten in 13 – and have only lost twice in their last 22 outings – and

by Nick Mashiter

Smith insisted they have not given up hope of a stunning finale.

"Earlier in the season we played well and didn't get any points," he said.

"Thirteen games unbeaten in this league is some achievement and if we can make it 14, 15 and 16, we will give ourselves a chance."

Smith felt Walsall should have disposed of the Blades.

"In all honesty, we should have been out of sight in the game with the chances we had. We didn't do that, so we're disappointed," he said.

"I thought the momentum of the game changed when their centre-forward decided not to give us the ball back after an injury and they ended up having a shot. Emotionally, that upset our players a bit and they took control from there."

"We were playing against Sheffield United, who are one of the big-hitters in this league, and I thought we out-footballed them."

Meanwhile, Walsall were handed an extra 1,500 tickets for the final-day trip to Crewe on April 27.

The Saddlers had sold out their initial 750 allocation with the game all-ticket. For more information visit www.saddlers.co.uk

Hoop dreams as school goes nap with five titles



Pool Hayes basketball teams are celebrating their five Walsall league championships and a runners-up place

BASKETBALL players at a Walsall school have gone nap with five titles this season.

Teams at Pool Hayes Arts and Community School also had a runners-up spot to add to their five Walsall Basketball League crowns.

The Year Seven side were runners-up while the teams from Year 8 to Year 13 finished as league champions. Many of the school's sides have been unbeaten for years.

Andy Banbery, Pool Hayes head of physical education, said: "For one school to be so dominant in a sport is very unusual."

Teams from Years 8 to 12 have also entered the English Schools Cup Competitions for the fifth successive year with the current Year Eight side through to the last 16 of the competition.

The Years 9 and 11 teams are also Black Country champions while the latter beat Bromsgrove School to add

the West Midlands title to their roll of honour.

National League games are played as far afield as Newcastle and Southampton with pupils leaving school at midday or before.

As well as basketball, the PE department offers opportunities across a range of activities with lunch-time and after-school clubs. More details about the school are on its website at www.poolhayesarts.com

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